

# Stratford College

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## Hanukkah

Hanukkah, the Festival of Rededication or Feast of Lights, is an 8 day holiday which begins on the 25th of the Hebrew month of Kislev. It commemorates the events in the Land of Israel around 135 BCE when the ruling Syrian Greek King Antiochus IV attempted to impose a wholly Greek way of life on the population.

Whilst some people were willing to embrace Hellenism (acting and thinking like Greeks), others objected to the loss of Jewish identity that this entailed. Matters came to a head when a statute of Zeus was placed in the Temple in Jerusalem and animals forbidden by Jewish law were offered as sacrifices.

Matityahu, a man of priestly family, and his 5 sons: Judah, Simeon, Jonathan, Jochanan and Eleazar who together were known as the Maccabees, led the rebellion.

After several months of fighting, they regained control of Jerusalem and the surrounding areas.

When the Temple had been cleansed and was ready for rededication as the Jewish place of worship, it was discovered that there was only 1 day's supply of oil for the golden candelabrum. It would take 8 days to receive the new supply. The candelabrum was lit anyway, and burned for the eight days.

To commemorate this miracle, each evening we light another candle on the family hanukkiyah (8 light candelabrum) and eat food fried in oil e.g. potato fritters and doughnuts.

*Ms. Charry (Jewish Studies/Hebrew)*

**Welcome** to a bumper edition of the Newsletter. Stratford College is a vibrant, dynamic and busy place. In the following pages you will read about the myriad of activities which have been going on since the start of this school year last September.

Many articles were written by the students themselves.

Stratford College will reopen on 7th January 2009.

## Dates for your diary

- **Jan 4th-8th** Norway Ski-trip
- **Jan 7th** school reopens
- **Jan 12th** 7pm. Meeting for Parents of Incoming 1st Years
- **Jan 13th** 7pm. Subject Choice TY students and Parents.
- **Jan. 26-30th** House Exams 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Years. 1st & 2nd years finish 1.10pm each day.
- **Jan 21st** TY French Table Quiz

## Looking Ahead

- Feb. 4th-18th Mock LC/JC
- Feb. 18th-22nd Classics Trip Rome
- Feb. 19th-20th school closed

## English News



'This house would ban music that glorifies serious crime,'

The Inaugural Elaine Feldman memorial award for literary merit went to Lucy Murphy (Junior). Niall Spain won the Senior award for his outstanding natural talent for short story writing. Lucy's poem, 'Literature,' was commended in the Junior section Teaching English Magazine national poetry competition and appeared in this month's issue. Well done Lucy!

### Debating

Three external debates have taken place so far this year. Senior debaters Lauren Corbet and Jessica Bagnall proposed the motion, '*Irish should be an optional subject at second level,*' in Trinity College, both performed admirably. Finn Keyes and Ita Obara opposed the motion, '*This house would ban music that glorifies serious crime,*' in UCD. Finn's oration was vital and dynamic and Ita engaged commendably in rebuttal and refutation. Junior Debaters Lucy Murphy and Alona Obara opposed the motion, '*This house would place a tax on fatty foods*'. Lucy secured a place in the next round of the Junior Literary and Historical Debates to be held in UCD.

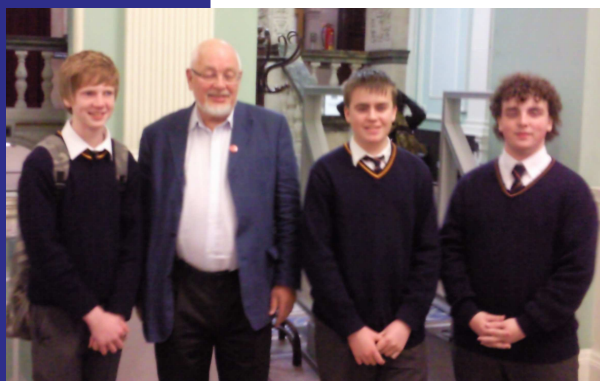
### Theatre Trips

Transition Year students were enthralled by a surreal and magical production of 'Circus,' directed by Raymond Keane. Second and Third year students enjoyed the world premier of Andrew Linney's musical, 'Good night Mister Tom,' in the Civic Theatre. We went to support Fearghal Kellagher, a second year student, who made his debut performance on stage. Also at the Civic, third year students participated in a Shakespearean workshop to aid their comprehension of the much loved play, 'Romeo and Juliet.'

Keep an eye out for the winners of the end of term novel reviews. The winning review from each class will be posted on the English notice board.

*Ms. Reynolds (English & Business)*

### Poetry Aloud



On Monday the 20th October eleven students from 1st, 2nd 3rd and TY competed in the Third Annual 'Poetry Aloud'

Speaking Competition's first round, held in regional centers around the country. Our center was the National Library on Kildare Street. This year's competition was in honour of the poet Thomas Kinsella's 80th birthday. Each competitor was required to recite 2 poems from memory, one Thomas Kinsella poem and a second from an extensive list of poems by various authors. Stratford College secured three

of the five places in the semi final: Diarmaid Kelly from first year, Robert Downes from third year, and Killian McLoughlin from TY. Robert Downes went on to secure a place in the final with his highly entertaining interpretation of **Hugh O'Donnell's poem, 'A brief history of being somebody'**

*Killian McLoughlin TY*

## The Awards Ceremony September 2008: Edited extract from Rachel Woolfson's speech.

It is a pleasure & a privilege to return to Stratford College for the Awards Ceremony 2008. I hope my few words will conjure up a picture of how wonderful and important Stratford College has been to my family in the past and to those of the present and the future. .... Being a pupil at Stratford was not only interesting and challenging but above all a joy.

Stratford College has always been a place where individuality flourished, where creative expression was encouraged, where students' diverse cultures, backgrounds and religion grew together. The challenging, thought provoking academic curriculum was matched by the honest and heartfelt presence of a group of teachers, unparalleled in their dedication to their students and to the college,...

Mrs. O Broin was an incredible mentor whose advice **"to treat our brains like muscles and give them a daily workout"** has stood us all in good stead. ...All the teachers created an environment where we felt welcome, and where our concerns, whether related to school matters or more personal affairs, were treated with the utmost care and respect.

We are proud in memory of our father to dedicate an award for enterprise. Our father had an unusual capacity for self belief and he followed a life path, in which education and business expertise were key components. He was auditor of the Gaelic society in Trinity and a fluent speaker who derived great joy and pride from being Irish and speaking the language.

In preparing this speech, I tried to imagine what he might say to you if he were standing here.

I believe that he would encourage you to **"chart a path and to then knuckle down and be willing to work hard to achieve it"**. He would also tell you to 'have courage in confronting the world, and to stand firm in your beliefs and your principles'.

Rachel Woolfson

(The full text of this speech is available from [reception@stratfordcollege.ie](mailto:reception@stratfordcollege.ie) )

## Art and Music Evening



Daniel Kelly (1st Year) drawing, one of many works by students on view at the recent 'Making Marks' exhibition of students' drawings.

Stratford College was delighted and honoured to welcome Elisaveta Blumina playing Musorsky's 'Paintings at an exhibition'. Student soloists, Matthew Halpin (saxophone) Hannah Berman (piano), Eleanor McNamara (violin) and Diarmaid Kelly (euphonium) also performed. The choir accompanied by Ms. Conlon sang their interpretation of the timeless Leonard Cohen classic 'Hallelujah'

## Drawing Workshops



Following the successful Music/Art evening, 3rd and 4th class pupils from three local primary schools participated in drawing workshops with Ms. Twyford-Troy.





## L.C.V.P. 5th Year Students



children who come to spend ten days at the Barretstown camp. The trip was a fantastic experience and opened all our eyes to doing extra volunteer work. -*Ashley Grey 5th Year*

### Microsoft

As Part of the L.C.V.P course, 5th year students visited Microsoft in Sandyford.

We toured the highly impressive work environment, and discovered how they operate their business and recruitment, which has been a key factor in their success.

The class also learned about new and up coming products that Microsoft plan to release in the future. -*Robert Dunne 5th Year*

### Trip to Barretstown Camp

As a part of our L.C.V.P course we went to Kildare to observe the work of the volunteers with the

The 5th Year LCVP class is organising the end of term quiz which will be held in the hall on Tues. 23rd of Dec. - *Mandy Stein 5th year*

## Geography Trip to Kippure Estate



On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November, senior geography students visited Kippure Environmental Centre, Co. Wicklow. We studied the upper and lower stages of the River Liffey. The trip, accompanied by Ms. Conlon and Ms. Mulligan was very educational and interesting.

First, we got a talk about what we had to do at the river, what equipment we would use and the information we would find out. Cliona from Kippure co-ordinated the study. This talk lasted about an hour. After this we went out to the upper course to find the velocity, the cross sectional area, the discharge and also do a bed load analysis. Then we did the same investigations on the lower course. Students are in the process of writing a geographical investigational

report, which will count for up to 20% of Leaving Certificate exam.

5<sup>th</sup> year students will also write up the same project and this will count for up to 20% of their mid-year geography exam.

*Daniel Gresak, 5<sup>th</sup> Year*



## Transition Year

Entering TY in September was the beginning of an action-packed, completely different stage of Secondary school that I can now say outweighs any other year I have experienced. Throughout the past 3 months, I have encountered adventure centres, ice-rinks, ski-slopes and received test results that heavily impact my career direction. As scary as it all sounds, all of these events have completely changed my outlook compared to this time last year.

Now that I know what Transition Year involves, I've discovered that these months are of vital importance for my own personal development, sociability and also beneficial to aspects of my life extending outside school. There is so much to look forward to, and this year in particular is one no student could tire of or get bored with.

*Cal McGhee, TY*



## TY Mini Companies

Each year TY students set up mini-companies as a business studies project. Ideas presented range from a fashion show, "battle of the bands" to yearbooks and breakfasts in the mornings.

The companies will be running throughout the year and the members of each group may keep whatever profits they make in that time. This is obviously a huge incentive for those involved to do well and we wish them all the best of luck with their ideas.

*Gary Byrne and Jack Cassidy, TY*

## Delphi - As Gaelige

Dé Luain 8<sup>ú</sup> Mean Fómhair chuaigh mo rang go Delphi i gContae Mhaigh Eo ar feadh ceithre lá. Seo a bhí mar chuid den cúrsa idirbliain i mo scoil. I rith an ama sin rinneamar a lán spórt éagsúla, mar ag dreapadóireacht, ag tógáil raftaí, ag siúl trí caoráin agus ag treodóireacht. Taithí maith ab ea é agus is é seo ná mo chúntas féin den thuras iontach dodhearmadtha...



Shroich mé Stásúin Euston agus shúil mé isteach le mo bhagáiste agus le miongháire mór ar m' aghaidh. Bhí mé chun dul go Delphi le mo rangsa. I ndiaidh leathuair an cloig bhí an rang go hiomlán ann, agus bhí an t-atmaisféar sa ghrúpa ar bís. Bhórdamar an traein ansin agus fuair muid ár tsuíocháin. Turas fhada ab ea é, ach shroicheadar Cathair na Mart roimh a fhios againn. Fuair muid bus ó Cathair na Mart go dtí an t-ionad é féin agus chuaigh muid isteach san fhoirgneamh, ar bís, ach neirbhíseach ag an am céanna.

Bhíomar scaipthe i dtrí grúpaí agus fuair muid ár n-uimhir seomraí. an chéad gníomhaíocht a dhéanamh: na rópaí airde. Bhí sé cosúil le cúrsa constaice,

ach thuas san aer le téada agus úim. Bhí sé go sár-mhaith! Díreach tar éis sin rinneamar dreapadóireacht ar an mballa dreapadóireachta. Thaitin sé go mór liom freisin, D'itheamar ár ndinnéar ansin agus suas linn, tuirseach traochta go leaba; an chéad lá i nDelphi thart.

An chéad lá eile rinneamar treodóireacht. Fuair gach foireann léirscáil agus cárta stampa, agus b'éigin dúinn na fógraí stampa a aimsiú. Chun an misean sin a chomhlánú, bhí orainn spágáil trí chaorán agus troid le míoltógaí feargach. Ach, faoi dheireadh, d'fhill gach duine – sábháilte go leor – chun lón a fháil.

Bhíomar ann ar feadh dhá lá i ndiaidh sin, agus rinneamar a lán rudaí suimiúla, mar ag seoltóireacht toinne, ag cur rachóireacht, agus fiú ag boghdóireacht. Ach, sa deireadh, bhí orainn an t-ionad a fhágáil agus filleadh abhaile, gan aon rud ach cúpla ballbhrúithe agus, ar nóidh, ár gcuimhní, cé go mbeidh inár n-intinn go síoraí. Turas dodhearmadtha ab ea é, agus tá a lán scileanna nua cheannaithe ag an rang.

*Le Gearóid Ó Broin TY*



## ~ Science Week ~ November '08



On November 11th, 1st and 2nd years students visited the National Botanical Gardens in Glasnevin. We looked all around the gardens, visiting the glasshouses and the different sections, which were very interesting. Unfortunately, some sections were closed for construction, so we did not get to see all of it, but we did see some very interesting flora, as well as exotic rocks in the rockery. The glasshouses had everything from cacti to palm trees, as well as tropical fruits

and a rainforest simulator. We were split into groups and given questions to fill out as we were wandering around. In the few hours that we were there, we saw different varieties of plants, vegetables, rocks and trees as well as the squirrels that inhabited the gardens. It was a fun day out, and I hope to be returning soon.

*Rory O'Neill 1st Year*

### Science Week Table Quiz

The science table quiz was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> November and was by far the highlight of science week. It was organised by the TY's and Ms. O'Sullivan, who worked really hard to make sure it ran smoothly. Various questions were asked about science, music and film and 1st, 2nd and 3rd Years all took part and did extremely well. The winning team, team 7, each

won a stationary set from W5 in Belfast, which the TY's had visited the previous day.

*Sorcha Dunne TY*

### Science Trips



**First and Second Year** Students enjoyed **'The Bubble Show'** (physics) by Steve Allman in DCU, a nature study in the National Botanic Gardens (biology) and also explored the Dodder River (geography) as part of Science Week this year.

**Third and TYs** went to the W5 Science Museum in Belfast.

**Fifth and Sixth** years were inspired by career talks from an Engineer, Architect and a Computer Scientist.

## 3rd Year C.S.P.E Action Project: Focus Ireland

For our 3rd year C.S.P.E action project we decided to spend the night in the Synagogue Hall in Rathgar to raise money for Focus Ireland. We were sponsored by friends and family to do so. Our C.S.P.E teacher Mr. K Barry and our P.E teacher Ms. L Finnegan agreed to supervise us. The subject of our project was homelessness, and we chose this because it was a very public issue, and Focus Ireland made it easier to raise money. Mr. Michael Gilbert, President of Terenure Synagogue kindly allowed us to use the Synagogue Hall, and we divided ourselves into different committees.

On Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> of November we all contributed to make the night successful. We watched a DVD on homelessness to raise its awareness, played Twister, went on a walk around Rathgar at 4am (it was really cold) and we all had a good time.

Overall the night was an enjoyable and beneficial experience. We raised over €600 and counting, and we want to thank everyone who helped and contributed to the cause.

*By Cathy Dunne and Ailbhe MacMahon 3rd Year*



*A brave Marc MacRedmond (3rd Year) has agreed to have his head shaved to raise even more money for Focus Ireland. Please support this event which will take place in the hall on Monday 22nd December.*

## Student Council

In recent weeks the Student Council has been involved in:

- Sampling and reviewing possible new school jackets
- Organising student travel cards for the student body
- Consulting with the Green Schools Committee.
- Surveying students about the lunch-time menu.

Our next meeting will be Friday. the 19th of December. If anyone has any suggestions please approach your year representative or a 6th year prefect.

*Donagh MacMahon (6th Year) Chairman of the Student Council.*

## Budding Entrepreneurs

### Market Day

First Year students ran a very successful market day on the 4th of December. Groups of students set up mini companies, chose a product and then marketed it to the rest of the student body.

Products ranged from pizza's, smoothies, jewellery, customised t-shirts, calendars, and bio-pens. With their innovative array of contemporary pens, BioPens Ltd. was declared overall winner based on their business plan, marketing and of course amount of profit made. Congratulations to Joanna Geoghan Managing Director, Zoe Shields Production Director and Alice Murphy Financial Director, who will now go on to represent Stratford College at the Dublin City Enterprise Awards.

*Ms. Reynolds (English & Business)*

*If you would like to buy a personalised calendar email KoolKalendar@gmail.com*

*Jonathan Sweeney 1st Year*

## Sport & Extra-Curricular Activities

### GAA News

Well done to Marc Comiskey (3rd Year) who has been selected to play for the Dublin U16 Gaelic team.

Marc has also just been named "Player of the Year" with his club St. Ann's

### Girls Basketball

The Girls Cadet and Senior teams played in a tournament against T.C.S and Palmerstown (19<sup>th</sup> Nov). They were narrowly beaten by T.C.S. but stormed ahead of Palmerston by 12 points for a comfortable win.

The Cadet and Seniors both reached the regional semi-finals on the 15th December in the National Basketball Arena. Despite leading for most of the match in the end the Seniors were narrowly beaten by 1 point. We would like to thank Ms.Finnegan for her commitment and encouragement.

*By Holly Furey and Kelly, TY*

### Boys Basketball

Well done to the Senior Boys Basketball team who won their final game against St. Tiernans by 3 points. Special mention to Marc Comiskey (3rd Year) who was player of the match scoring 4 free throws in the last vital 2 minutes.

Thank you to Jack Cleary (6th Year) who has played his last match with the team and who has been an inspirational captain.

### GOLF LESSONS/ COACHING

CONTACT: MARK BLOOM

(FORMER PUPIL & PARENT)

087-7940912

### ANY ONE FOR TENNIS?

CONTACT: LYALL COHEN (FORMER PUPIL)

087-6480107

### SWIMMING:

Good Luck to Eva McCrea (6th Year) and Fergal Wallace (5th Year) in the Leinster School Swim Championships, 11th January 2009.

### Recent Graduates:

**Lorna Dunne (2005) B.Soc.Sc. UCD.**

**Jennifer Murphy (2005) BA Psychology UCD.**

### Past Pupils:

**Simon Lewis (1997)** Recently appointed Principal of Carlow Educate Together Primary School.

### Farewell:

Farewell and good luck to Mr. K. Barry who has been teaching history and CSPE during Ms. Kenny's absence.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO....**

...Matthew Halpin on being offered a place in Berklee College of Music Boston, USA.

...Amber, Amy, Donagh, and Kevin (6thYear) for coming 3rd in the Dublin Senior French Table Quiz.

...Tadgh Charles (TY) and Tami Sheridan (2nd Year) on their election to Comhairle na nÓg.

.. Ms. Ivers on her publication in this month's Second Level Support Services Magazine on implementing the Oral Irish Exam for the Junior Certificate.