

Coláiste Uisce By Jack Ring

On the 12th of April 2016, Transition Years had a three-day trip to Coláiste Uisce in Co. Mayo. On the first day we went straight out to the bay where we took part in some enjoyable activities, although it was hard to enjoy the moment as the water was literally breath-taking with its sickening coldness. That night we did indoor games such as dodgeball, which was the perfect activity if you didn't mind getting bombarded with spherical objects throughout the duration of the activity.

On the second day we rose from our beds in hope that the sun was out and the water was warmer, which luckily for all of us it was. We were split into two groups and played outdoor and water activities. Half of us played a basketball league in the blistering sun, which was surprisingly refreshing and we all had a good time, what came next had everybody on their last nerves. We had pieces of wood and had to make shapes from them, frustration ran throughout the groups. We then transferred into the water where we were doubled up in small sail boats and set out to sea on our next adventure. None of us wanted to fall into the bitter-cold water so we were all extra careful, we all thought it was a great experience and it really set a good mood for the night ahead.

That night we enjoyed a nice meal followed by another céilí which again was surprisingly enjoyable. Following the céilí we broke out our very best dance moves for the disco. As the disco drew to an end and the night was still young, we couldn't let the day pass without performing an outstanding rendition (if we do say so ourselves) of 'Happy Birthday' for the birthday girl Ava, presenting her with a cake and of course ensuring she received 16 kisses to mark the occasion. With that we filled ourselves with cookies and tea before retiring to our dorms to sleep on full stomachs and in warm beds. Some would even say it was better than being at home!

On the final day we took a 15 minutes bus ride to the pier, admiring the outstanding view on the way. The wind whistled as it swept through the bay, brushing everyone as it passed by. We started our jumping on the pier steps, a mere 5 feet off the glistening water. We then moved to 10 feet which got considerably higher and finally to 15 feet which was somewhat terrifying. Despite many students fear of heights, they plunged into the depths of the mystical ocean never the less. Others willingly leaped from the walls like frogs from bank to bank. The wet bus ride back wasn't anything but uncomfortable, but everyone shared their thoughts on the activity through chattering teeth!

Following the many heart-warming goodbyes to our group leaders we boarded the buses once again with heavy hearts, devastated to be leaving once and for all. When we arrived home our parents were more than happy to see us, which came to a surprise to us all, but we were just happy to see our beds. Overall, the trip to Coláiste Uisce was nothing short of outstanding and it is defiantly an unforgettable experience for everyone that was involved.



A snapshot at life in SMGS



SCOIL MUIRE GAN SMÁL

Keeping you up to date with life inside SMGS

Heroic Hurling ensure Success for Blarney

Blarney became All-Ireland champions when they defeated Roscommon CBS in Templemore on Wednesday 16th of March with a score-line of 0-17 to 2-9. Many supporters from Blarney and SMGS travelled the long road to Templemore to support the local hero's. The atmosphere was electric as the Blarney supporters cheered for 'Moylan's Blarney army'. The determination was clearly shown throughout the match as both teams put up a great fight to win the Michael Cusack Cup.



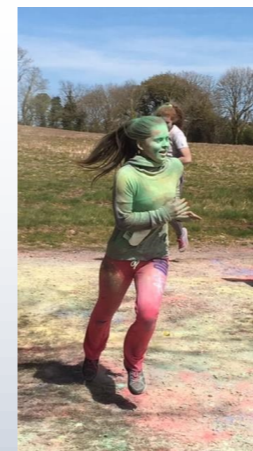
It was the perfect day for hurling, and Roscommon CBS started brilliantly with an early goal as they led 1-2 to 0-2 after ten minutes. The Blarney side came back into it however with a string of unanswered points to give them a half-time lead on a scoreline of 0-9 to 1-4.

Both sides provided an exhibition of point-scoring in the second half where Blarney asserted their dominance and took the game by storm as they pummeled the opposition.

Roscommon grabbed their third goal late on as CBS played some heroic hurling. From then on, however, SMGS began to pull away despite the gallant scoring efforts of CBS. Blarney's Captain Mark Coleman stole the show by playing an astonishing game against a strong defensive Roscommon team, clocking point after point on the board from both frees and from play. When the final whistle blew a sea of Blarney supporters flooded the pitch. After blood, sweat and tears Blarney were finally All-Ireland champs. Blarney wouldn't have succeeded if it wasn't for their determined trainers :Sean Downey, Stephen Moylan, Declan O'Connell and St John Cremin.



Colour Run in Aid of The Irish Heart Foundation



On Wednesday the 20th of April, 4th year students organised a Colour Run for 1st and 2nd year students. The event took place in aid of the *Irish Heart Foundation* and it was a huge success. After a few postponements due to of rain, the weather couldn't have been better on this sunny afternoon.

The Colour Run is a unique colour race that celebrates healthiness, happiness and individuality. The participants were doused from head to toe in different colours at each kilometre they passed. The coloured powder is used to create happiness. It is all about fun and positive energy. The run also promoted a healthy lifestyle, all of which are exactly the values of the *Irish Heart foundation*.

Student thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and over €1,000 was raised for a very worthy cause. Well done to all involved!



Raising the Irish Flag at SMGS



It was a big day for all the schools in Ireland, including Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál on Tuesday the 15th of March as our school participated in the national commemoration of 1916. All the teachers and students gathered outside in the school front yard to witness this great event. It was initiated by a few words from Mr Sheehan about the history of the flag, followed by the reading of the proclamation by 6th year student Ellen McSweeney and Peter Harte in 2nd year, who won a competition to read his own version of the modern proclamation. The national anthem was sung by all music students. It was a very enjoyable day as we engaged with our past. This was a very important day for our school as it shows our appreciation for the rebels who fought for our freedom in 1916.



Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál

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Seachtain na Gaeilge 2016

Seachtain na Gaeilge this year ran from the 9th -16th of March. Various events took place throughout the school. All years took part in specific events planned for Seachtain na Gaeilge. Such events that took included; 1st years: quiz as gaeilge, 2nd years: céilí, 3rd years: treasure hunt as gaeilge, 5th years: céilí and 6th years students enjoyed a coffee morning where many games were played (in Irish of course!).

This year as part of our annual music video as gaeilge was Michael Jackson, "Thriller". 1st and 2nd year students were cast in the video. 4th year students were also involved in hair and makeup. The dance routine was instructed by Sophie Williams and Rachel Twohig (TY students). The video was a great success and well done to all involved. The finished masterpiece can be viewed on the school's YouTube channel or by using the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nr6b0hQaaQ>

SMGS Hosts Their First Ever Equestrian Competition

On 17th of April SMGS held their very first equestrian competition in Clyda House in Mallow. Past students Niamh Casey and Ciara O' Regan organised and held the competition. Many schools competed in the event in both individual and team rounds with the overall winners of the team event being Davis College from Mallow. Congratulations to all involved and a big THANK YOU to the two past students who remain heavily involved in our very successful school equestrian team.



International success at SMGS

Karate: Two young students Seán and Chris Crean Mc Carthy from SMGS recently competed in the Scottish open on the 23rd of April. Both returned home with some silver wear with Seán winning gold for the under 70kg category and Chris winning silver in the over 70kg category. They hope to continue their career in karate and hope to become world champions in the near months. We wish them the best in the future with the Irish karate team.

Basketball: Congratulations and best of luck to Leaving Cert student Amy Murphy who has been selected to play for the Irish U18 women's basketball team. Amy is an exceptionally talented player who will compete in Division B of the 2016 FIBA European Championships. The team will travel to Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina in July and will compete against Estonia, Greece, England, MKD. Well done Amy! Doing the school proud as usual.

Soccer: SMGS would like to extend best wishes to 5th year student, Evelyn Daly who has been nominated once again for the "International Player of the Year" award. We would also like to congratulate 5th year student, Conor McCarthy, who captained the Irish U19 team who drew with Northern Ireland in the opening fixture of the Inspiresport Centenary Shield in March.



Army Band

On Friday, April 8th the National Army Band came to visit our school to give us a wonderful display of classical music including instruments such as the trumpet, saxophone and the flute.

An array of sound was echoing through the corridors and it sent a positive, enlightening ambiance throughout the school. They performed songs such as 'I just haven't met you yet' by Michael Buble and the James Bond theme song.

They showed off their instruments and told us, what they're name was and what sound it played. There were about 30 army band members at the performance ranging from 25-60 years of age.

The duration of the event lasted about an hour and was enjoyable throughout. This was not their first visit however, they come here annually and it gets better every year.

Boys Basketball All-Ireland final

The first year boys took part in the All-Ireland semi-final and All-Ireland final on the 5th of May in Dublin. They won the semi-final by 49-33 defeating their opponents by a big margin. Unfortunately they were beaten in the final by Coláiste Ní Skeilge by 42-33. A huge fight was portrayed throughout this match by SMGS and they couldn't be faulted for their enormous efforts. Well done to all especially their coach Mr. O' Sullivan for reaching the final.



SMGS Ladies Footballers Strike Gold! Munster Final Success VS SMI Newcastlewest

We have all heard of "the game of two halves" and this final was no exception. With SMI getting off to an incredible start scoring 1-02 within the opening minutes it looked like this wasn't going to be Blarney's day. SMI were determined to make this a hard battle for the Cork side but the Blarney girls did not let this lead rattle them and kept their heads in the game. Once the Blarney side settled and Claire Ahern and Fiona Burke started popping point after point over the bar, they knew they still had a fighting chance.



At half time the Blarney side were losing by a mere point to their extremely strong opposition. The Blarney girls were not prepared to go home without the title and this was evident in the thrilling second half. Despite tough marking on Eve Mullins, she fought hard for every single ball and kept her head in the game. With the Blarney Captain doing everything in her power in midfield, the Vice Captain Fiona Burke too rose to the challenge and kept increasing the Blarney scoreboard and found the back of the net, not once but twice!

Aideen Donovan kept Blarney's defense in tacked playing the role of a sweeper making sure that SMI didn't claw their way back. Alice O' Connor too had her work cut out for her marking Sophie Liston of SMI and a deserving county player, however Alice was determined not to let Sophie inch past her pressuring her each time with outstanding defense making sure she didn't score a single point in the second half. In the final 10 minutes Aislinn Buckley of SMGS had no option but to take down an SMI girl who was gunning for a goal. Aislinn's fast thinking resulted in a dreaded penalty against SMGS. With the fearless Karen O' Farrell lining the goal it was a tense moment for both sides as Lauren Brouder took the opportunity to reduce the margin. With an unbelievable save by Karen who calmly deflected the ball with her leg, Blarney were on their way to securing the title.



It was clear at this point that there was no stopping the Blarney side as Dara Twomey, Eimear O'Reilly, Claire Ahern, Orla Cronin and Fiona Burke

kicked over point after point.

The Cork side we crowned deserving winners as the full time whistle blew on a score line of 3-11 to 2-08. An outstanding achievement for the girls and their coaches Ms. Behan, Ms. Markey and Ms. McCarthy. Also, a huge congratulations to Fiona Burke of Blarney who was awarded the deserving title of 'Player of the Match' after scoring three magnificent goals.



5th Year Trips to France Germany

On Saturday the 30th of April the 5th year French students went to Paris for four days. They went to Disneyland Paris and explored the many breath-taking sites Paris had to offer. Students indulged in the French cuisine, many were even brave enough to try snails!

On Monday the 2nd of May the 5th years German students went to Köln. They went to a theme park and enjoyed a carriage cable ride overcoming any fear of heights that may have existed. They enjoyed four lovely warm days. We just wish they brought some back to Cork for this so called 'heat wave'.

