

SCIENCE ACTIVITIES AT MOATE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Science was the theme in Moate Community School over the past two weeks, ranging from Science magic to Science Quizzes and Science Talks. All activities are aimed to promote the study of science and encourage an appreciation of science in our everyday lives. A number of exciting events were held to explore this important field of study in MCS.

‘Bangs and Bubbles in the Lecture Hall’

At lunch time Tues 15th Nov, Transition Year Students entertained First Year students with some Fun Science Demonstrations, including generating a Lava Lamp, an Iodine Snake, turning water to wine and some hair-raising experiences with the Van Der Graph Generator. Well done especially to TY students for their work in preparation for this event. The enthusiasm and appreciation from the First Year audience was evident. It seems science surely is great fun!

Second Year Science Table Quiz

All Second Year Science Students have been taking part in Science Table Quizzes during their Science Classes. Questions tested their knowledge of physics, chemistry and biology, as well as some stimulating questions on Fun Science; Did you know that cats have 32 muscles in their ears? Five teams will compete for the winning place at lunch time Tues 29th Nov.

Regional Science Quiz success for three MCS students

Having won the regional science competition in Athlone on the week of the 14th of November, Niamh Broderick, Sarah Maguire and Emmet Gill represented their school and region in Trinity College Dublin on Saturday 26th of November. Out of forty schools participating, the MCS team came in seventh. Very well done to all three involved. This was an excellent result, indicating that the study of science in MCS is producing great students with wide knowledge across the science spectrum.

Posters for Science Week

First Year and Transition Year Students put their artistic talents to work designing posters, including Fun Science Facts, nerdy Einstein types and bubbling chemicals.

Science Talks



Dr Peter Crowley visited MCS on Fri 18th Nov. Dr Crowley lectures in Chemistry at NUIG and researches in the field of Protein Chemistry. He captured the students' attention with interactive demonstrations on combustion, luminous chemical reactions, and chemicals with

mirror-images. He encouraged the students to figure out the science behind chemical reactions and the structure of chemicals.

Feedback from the Transition Year and Sixth Year students attending the talks was very positive, enhancing their interest in the field of Chemistry.

Magic Science for First Years and Science Space for TYs

Dr Michelle McKeon Bennett and four of her team of students from Limerick IT made science come alive with their colourful, flashy and interactive Science Show on Thurs 24th Nov. The 159 First Years students were amazed and interested in the Magic of Science, including burning rockets, absorbing polymers and bubbling snakes! The students were shown how the growing of plants in space could be used to filter urine and render it drinkable!



Dr McKeon Bennett is head of the Applied Science Department at LIT. She has been researching the use of Sphagnum Moss from Clara Bog for Space Applications. She developed a system that allows water to be filtered and plants to grow in the enclosed environment of a space orbiter (shuttle) and planetary colony.

It was all about the Science behind travelling to and surviving in Space for Dr Gary Stutte's talk with the Transition Year Students. The students were shown how to grow very productive potato plants without soil, using Hydroponics. Dr Stutte is one of the top three Space Life Scientists at the NASA Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. He is currently performing research in the Controlled Environment Laboratory for Life Sciences (CELLS) at Limerick Institute of Technology.



All these activities, organised by Ms Margaret Mandal and the Science Department, proved to be fun and interesting for the students and teachers alike, stimulating their interest in studying science and the possibilities of future careers in the scientific field.