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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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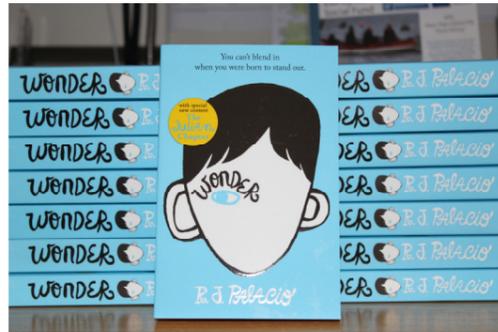
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Youthreach Reads Wonder for Read DL 2015

During February and March, as part of the Read DL initiative across Co Donegal, learners (and staff!) across all Youthreach centres read RJ Palacio's book *Wonder*. This fantastic book provided us with a great literacy resource, while also promoting the restorative 'choose kind' message.



Wonder What Ballyshannon Have Been Up To?

WONDER what we've been up to this month????? We've been busy reading RJ Palacio's WONDER. It's a great read - and made us think about our own values and how we treat other people. So if you haven't read it yet, get yourself a copy and you'll soon discover why we couldn't put the book down :) **Nicole O'Reilly**



Reading Wonder in Lifford

I am reading 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio. This book was chosen as part of READ DL 2015. This is a scheme where Donegal communities read the same book and discuss it together. I'm enjoying reading 'Wonder'. It is about a little boy who was born with a facial disfigurement. His name is August and he is a ten year old boy. Up until he was ten years old he was home schooled but at ten he starts middle school. The story is told through the eyes of August, his sister and his friends. It makes you think about all the people August's disfigurement affects. Everywhere that August and his family or friends go, people stare and it's not nice for all involved. I'm glad that I started reading this book and can't wait to finish it. I find it very interesting, sad in some places but happy in others. It's made me think that I need to appreciate my life and health more.
Patrice McGavigan, Lifford Youthreach



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Youthreach is co-funded by
 DES & the European Social Fund



Ireland's EU Structural and investment Funds Programmes 2014 - 2020
 Co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union.

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Welcome...to the first edition of our 2015 newsletter! It's been a busy (and cold!) few months for centres around the county. We were delighted to see the NAYC's annual conference take place in Donegal this year—eleven years since it last took place in the county. Centres have also been recognised for their hard work through acknowledgement at the NAYC conference, Donegal ETB's annual awards and the Junk Kouture Regional Finals (North). The next edition of the newsletter will be available in June. In the meantime you can keep up to date with us on Twitter—@DonegalYR.

Dr Sandra Buchanan, Youthreach County Coordinator

Letterkenny Youthreach Win Donegal ETB Award!

On Monday 23 March, Letterkenny Youthreach won a Donegal ETB award at it's annual awards ceremony for an Inclusive Communities project with the Little Angels School under the Inclusive Project category. Our annual Masterchef competition received a certificate of achievement under the Healthy Living and Well Being category as did Buncrana and Glengad Youthreach centres for their contribution to Feel Good Fortnight in Inishowen. Congratulations to all involved!



Pictured clockwise from left: Niamh McLaughlin & Samantha Boyle, Letterkenny Youthreach with Joanne Irwin, ETB Chairperson; Gillian Kennedy, Letterkenny Coordinator with Niamh & Samantha; Toni Smith, Mandy Kavanagh & Shauna Doherty, Buncrana/Glengad; Masterchef cert; Tutor Marianne O'Donnell and Roisín Duggan, Gortahork Youthreach, representing Masterchef.



Youthreach Careers Focus Days 2015

During the week of 23 March Youthreach held its annual Careers Focus Days. On Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 learners attended mock interviews, having spent a number of weeks preparing CVs and cover letters and completing sessions on interview tips. On Thursday 26 March, learners attended Donegal ETB's annual Further Education and Training Fair. This began with an Employers Panel (pictured below top left), featuring leading employers in Co Donegal who talked about key skills required by employers. Pictured below top right are learners and staff who attended from Letterkenny Youthreach and bottom left and right, learners and staff from Lifford Youthreach. Further information can be viewed on Twitter through #FETfair2015



NAYC Hosts Annual Conference in Co Donegal



Youthreach Coordinators from across the country gathered in Letterkenny from 25-27 February for the 2015 annual conference of the National Association of Youthreach Coordinators (NAYC). This conference was last held in the county in 2004. Coordinators were kept very busy over the three days with workshops on managing budgets, social media and the restorative classroom, along with sessions on suicide and data protection. The conference was officially opened by Joe McHugh, T.D. and the key note speaker was the inspiring Mickey Harte, manager of the Co Tyrone Senior Gaelic Football team. By all accounts it was a very enjoyable conference and a huge thank you to everyone who contributed towards making the conference the success it was! Below are a selection of photos of the some of the speakers (Joe McHugh, T.D.; Joanne Irwin, Donegal ETB Chairperson; Martin Gormley, AEO and Mickey Harte, keynote speaker). Further information can be viewed on Twitter through #NAYC2015



Letterkenny Hold Busy Health Promotion Month

Letterkenny Youthreach hosted a health promotion month during the month of March. A wide range of activities were organised including reflexology, mindfulness, gym, boot camp, juicing and smoothies, creating a



tree of positivity (pictured right), talks on alcoholism (pictured left), STIs and finished up with the annual county blitz!

Buncrana's Amy Participates in Junk Kouture Regional Final (North)



Congratulations to Buncrana learner Amy Mc Daid whose Junk Kouture competition entry won a silver ticket qualifying her for automatic entry to the regional finals in the Millennium Forum, Derry on 9 March. Her dress was the only dress to win this in Co Donegal and was particularly special as it was picked by the sponsors Bank of Ireland. Her dress was also on display in the Buncrana Bank of Ireland branch for a week in February. Although she didn't make the national final, it was an absolutely fantastic experience!



L-R: Liz O'Donnell, BOI Buncrana Manager; Mandy Kavanagh; Amy McDaid; Shauna Doherty; art tutor Claire Harkin. Mandy and Shauna helped Amy with her dress.

Wednesday Programme in Buncrana and Glengad

The Buncrana and Glengad centres ran their Wednesday programme during December, January and February when they dedicated each Wednesday to covering SPHE issues like alcohol and drugs (with Foróige), sexual health, Mind Out (mental health), mindfulness, restorative approaches, pro-social skills, yoga, team work and career advice. Learners also visited the local Garda station to chat to JLO Brendan Roache and also undertook a visit to Dublin for their winter residential, visiting Newgrange (pictured right), the Michael Collins barracks and shopping in Blanchardstown.



The programme finished with a trip to Todd's Leap to do teambuilding games and fun activities.



Gortahork Wins County Football Competition!

Congratulations to Gortahork who won the county football competition on 15 January. They will go on to represent the Northern Region (Co Donegal) at the NAYC All-Ireland football final in June. Many thanks to Aidan Callaghan, Acting Youthreach Coordinator, Lifford for organising the tournament! Pictured left are all the football competitors.