

*The stats for November!*

*In total, between Little Cells, Fantastic DNA and fourth year projects, we brought interactive and dynamic lessons about molecular and cellular biology to 10 schools and taught 300 children*

*We've used 300 bananas in our Fantastic DNA school visits! That's a lot of DNA!!*

*That's more than 1200 tubes prepared including 40 mL saline, 15 mL ethanol and 1 mL ethanol!*

Rosie and Erica one a Little Cells visit in 1x1

Dear Cell EXPLORERS Volunteers

*It's been a busy month this November!*

*So much has happened; Fantastic DNA school visits, Little Cells school visits to schools and the Galway Science and Technology Festival- with THREE workshops! Not to mention the 4<sup>th</sup> years have finished up their 4<sup>th</sup> year projects with us (Sad face, we'll miss them! Maybe they've caught the volunteering bug and will stay on!)*

*We have some new volunteering members join us yet again so we welcome them to our team!*

*Some people who were trained for the GSTF are now qualified for Fantastic DNA school visits, so we hope to see them again next semester!*

*Hopefully you were able to attend our Christmas party in the college bar and enjoyed the pizza and silly santa presents! It's the least we can do to thank you for all your hard work this past month!*

*Now sit back, relax and enjoy the holidays. See you next semester!*

-The Cell EXPLORERS Team



## Fantastic DNA school visits

Fantastic DNA school visits were done this month in collaboration with the Galway Science and Technology Festival. We visited [x] schools and even had our first secondary school visit!

We visited schools in Barna, Oranmore, Tuam, Athenry, Cong, Oughterard.

Thanks to everyone who went on a school visit- a special thanks to those who went on several visits a week, gave the presentation, lead the visits and helped with the packing and preparation!

Q: What do you call a cab which provides drug therapy?

A: Chemotaxis



Máire Ní Chaoimh @okeeffefiddle · Nov 18

Richard frm @Cellexplorers explaining how 2 get banana DNA @msokeeffesclass @kinvarans @nuigalway all engrossed



← ↻ 1 ★ 1 ⋮

Some of our team members nearly became celebrities on Twitter with an intense tweeting session by the teacher from Kinvarra N.S!



Some Fantastic banana DNA being extracted with Anna demonstrating



That's some good lookin' DNA!

## Little Cells school visits



Excited with their cells! Googly eyes makes everything cuter!



Jew young Explorers learning about different cell types with demonstrators (L:R) Ciara, Erica and Josie

never forget their first visit at  
[insert school here]

They then went on to do school visits in Scoil Rois, Garranfrauns, Cor an Droma N.S and Muine Mhea N.S

Little tots had a blast learning about the different types of cells in our bodies, and modelling them with jumping clay!

Well done to all the volunteers who went on these school visits! Hope you know all your different cell types now ;)

## 4<sup>th</sup> year Biochemistry and Microbiology Projects

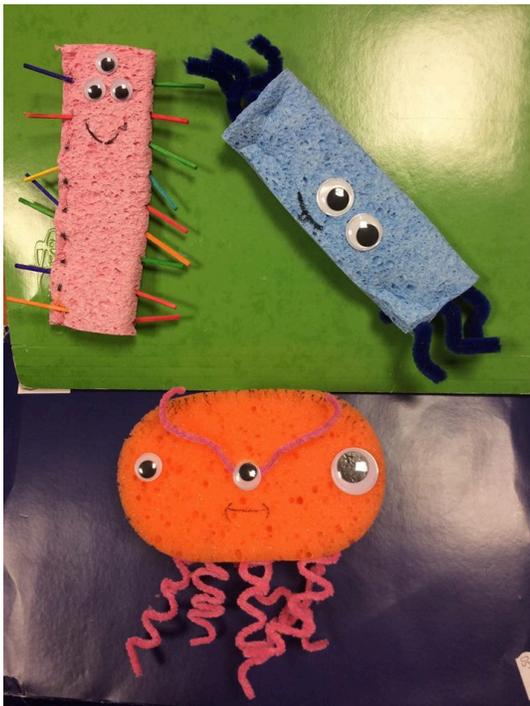
Clodha, Laura, JD and Angela, all worked very hard this semester developing new ideas for Cell EXPLORERS.

This included a DNA extraction protocol designed to be carried out in the home!

They also had a school session learning about DNA profiling and they put together a teacher's handbook! Well done guys! :)



Angela demonstrating their new DNA extraction protocol, for at home!



You've probably seen the micro team working hard in the Cell EXPLORERS prep room this semester!

Ronan, Aisling, Deirdre and Danielle designed a new session called "Amazing Microbes" where they taught the lucky children at "school" about the screening process water undergoes to be treated!

Their microbe sponges are so cute! Proof once again that googly eyes make everything better...

## Galway Science and Technology Festival 2014

One of the most exciting events of the year and as usual it was a major success! DNA extractions, cheek cell preps, brain model building, ion channel racing, a DNA cut-out scene, and SNS next top model (Unfortunately, Tyra Banks couldn't make it... ) left 50 volunteers tired but happy (and full of food! ) Can't wait to do it all again next year... Thanks Catherine for taking all the photos!



Amira teaching future neurobiologists all about the brain!



Workshop A full to the brim with enthusiastic attendees!



We do it for the kids...



Queuing for knowledge....

## Being a new volunteer...

*One of our new volunteers, Rosie, tells us what it's like to start with the Cell EXPLORERS team...*

Hello!

Before joining Cell Explorers I never really considered volunteering to be a fun hobby. I had done other voluntary work when I was younger, but truthfully, never enjoyed it. Before joining I had no clue how rewarding and educational working with the Cell Explorers team could be. I began in October, right after arriving in Galway to study medicine at NUIG. I felt welcomed straight away, and even though I am only in first year, everyone was so friendly and helpful. Things started to happen pretty quickly after joining, with training sessions, planning, bountiful emails and co-ordination. Finally we began the school visits! I am a demonstrator for the Fantastic DNA sessions. This was a treat for me. I recall being impressed from my very first visit. I could not believe how much information the children were taught, and were able to retain! I thoroughly enjoyed teaching, presenting and organizing parts of the visit. The day is not only amazing for the students; it is for the volunteers as well!

I am also involved in both the demonstrating and organization of the Little Cells programme and through this, my opportunities are endless! I began working with Little Cells in November, as I thought to myself, why not increase my teaching capacity while working with younger (and cuter) kids!

The program involves human anatomy and cell biology, which I believe should be crucial elements in a child's education.



After each session, I left feeling confident that the class has grasped the concepts and that we had collectively inspired them to pursue science as a career. It boggles my mind how taking a few hours out of my day each week can make such an impact on others.

I sincerely hope that Cell Explorers will continue to expand their volunteering team as the years go on and introduce more and more children to the exciting world of science.

-Rosie

**Interested in joining the team? Just email [cellexplorers@nuigalway.ie](mailto:cellexplorers@nuigalway.ie)!**