



AIB's 'Build a Bank Challenge' national final winners announced 2nd May 2008

A team of six transition year students from Loreto Community School, Milford has won the national final of AIB's 'Build a Bank Challenge'. Twenty schools from across the country took part in the final which was held in Croke Park on Thursday 1st May. The school picked up a specially commissioned glass trophy and the team members each won a Nintendo Wii for their efforts.

At the final the 20 schools presented an exhibition of their school bank to the panel of 9 judges. The panel included Janet Stafford from the Irish Times, Pat O'Connor, Head of the Department of Business at Blanchardstown IT, and Phil Smyth from the Centre for Talented Youth in Ireland, DCU. When adjudicating, the judges were looking for the schools to effectively present their experience of running their school bank, to show how they operated together as a team and for the students to demonstrate their own personal development from the Challenge. All the judges noted that the students were very IT and media savvy and had put in a huge effort throughout the year.

The bank set up by Loreto was based around a jungle theme. This included the bank staff members getting dressed up as jungle animals for the launch day, regular 'jungle themed' newsletters sent to customers along with plenty of goodies and freebies for customers who were regular savers. The presentation of their bank was creative, colourful and innovative. Overall the team proved themselves to be worthy winners of the Challenge.

Second place in the Challenge was awarded to St Colemans College, Fermoy, Co Cork with each team member picking up a Nintendo DS Lite along with a glass trophy for the school. Third place went to St Dominics College, Cabra, Dublin with team members picking up Mini Hi-Fis along with a glass trophy for the school. All participants in the final received an AIB 'Build a Bank Challenge' certificate of participation.

The Challenge will begin again in September when transition year and fifth year students from across the country will get a chance to set up, run and manage their own school bank and compete for the overall title of the AIB 'Build a Bank Challenge'.

Susan Reilly, Project Manager, AIB Build a Bank Challenge, said

'We would like to congratulate Loreto Community School on their great success in winning first prize in the national final. Not only were the students delighted with the chance to see Croke Park but they are also delighted that their hard work, effort and creativity has been rewarded. The competition has been extremely rewarding and has had a very positive effect on all the schools involved, introducing the students to the world of money management and business, and encouraging them to plan for their future. We look forward to running the AIB Build a Bank Challenge again next school term!'

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