

Chandler-Tullamore Sister Cities

Representing the Sister Cities of Chandler, Arizona and Tullamore, Ireland

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2012 Annual Report - Chandler-Tullamore Sister Cities (CTSC)

- Barbara Olivieri, CTSC Education Chair, made a visit to Tullamore in March 2012. She visited Sacred Heart School, which is considered a “Sister School” to Seton Catholic Prep, Chandler, and met with faculty and students. She was enthusiastically received, and this visit jump-started the Pioneer Student Ambassador Program.
- The CTSC membership was joined in the St. Patrick’s Parade in March by the “Intel Irish” - 5 residents from County Offaly who were working at the Intel plant in Chandler. New friendships were made, and one new membership gained.
- The Third Annual Chandler-Tullamore Sister Cities’ Art & Author Showcase received entries for essays, poetry, and art works - 3 times as many as 2011. The First Place Essay winner (a Seton Catholic students whose home is on the Gila River Reservation) was recognized as a Runner-Up in the International Competition. Our Tullamore entry for Poetry was recognized as First Place, and she was awarded a \$1,000 cash prize. Both works were displayed at the Annual SCI Conference in Washington, D.C. Ms. Cullen’s poem was included in a presentation tour around the United States.

All student entrants were invited to the City of Chandler’s June Council Meeting, and were recognized publicly by the Mayor and Council for their literary and art works on behalf of the 2013 CTSC Art & Author Showcase; the event was televised on the local City channel.

- One of the Intel engineers from Tullamore working in Chandler, his wife, and 4 daughters became fast friends with CTSC after 2 visits to Chandler, one in March and one 6-week holiday in the summer of 2012. The father and his daughters play varied musical instruments and shared their vocal talents at various venues during their visits: classes at Seton Catholic, pubs around the Valley, etc. They were hosted by several Seton Catholic families, and made long-lasting friendships. Upon returning to Tullamore at the end of the summer, one of the daughters started a skype/penpal pairing with students at Seton Catholic. These contacts will result in a student exchange with students from Tullamore coming to Chandler in March 2013, and students from Chandler going to Tullamore in the summer of 2013. Another daughter was the International Poetry winner for the 2012 CTSC Art & Author Showcase.
- CTSC Board member and native of Tullamore, Ireland, Paul McGowan returned home for a week visit; he met with several of the townspeople and promoted the twinning at several events.
- The concept of a Pub Quiz was introduced by one of the “Intel Irish” engineers and native of Tullamore, resulting in the first CTSC Pub Quiz held on Dec. 2. The engineer created the trivia questions and guided the evening, raising over \$800 for our Pioneer Student Ambassador Program.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chandler-Tullamore Sister Cities is in a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, with the goal to “cultivate and maintain a strong reciprocal relationship between the Cities of Chandler, Arizona and Tullamore, Ireland, and where we encourage cultural understanding, community involvement, economic development, and educational exchanges.”