

Introduction

Fionn and Jonathan offer lively and interactive workshops on a diverse range of natural heritage. From an overview of the mammals of Ireland, to researching bottlenose dolphin populations off the West Coast, to the return of the White Tailed Sea Eagle, Fionn's fascination with wildlife is infectious.

This father and son team has had some amazing adventures: on safari in Tanzania; exploring rainforests in the Amazon, Malaysia, and Hawaii; trekking the mountains of China and North America and the Saharan and Arabian deserts.



They've contributed to conservation efforts to help sea turtles in Zanzibar, grizzly bears in the Pacific Northwest, flying fox bats in Australia, and corals of the Great Barrier Reef. They love to help students compare the unique wildlife of the children's own immediate environment with those of very different environments. And they are happy to bring out their instruments (fiddle and guitar) to play a short set of Irish traditional music.



As one of Ireland's youngest Heritage Experts (and the only one with Down syndrome), Fionn makes a powerfully affirmative impression on children. Jonathan, with 25 years' experience in Steiner / Waldorf classrooms, provides technical assistance and leads craft activities, songs and games which reinforce the learning experience.

For older children, and for the adults (faculty and parents), they will share examples of what they have achieved by thinking outside the box, embracing community, and personalizing policies in ways never before attempted. They'll share lessons learned in the fine art of negotiating for things they are passionate about, from the soft sell to the Irish High Court.

They are living proof that you can make the world a better place, starting right at home, and finding friends along the way.

As well as music, they offer stand-up comedy to make you laugh. Having performed a seven-night run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the world largest arts festival, they know how to show you a good time.

Fionn and Jonathan have worked with over 500 school classes, with

children of all ages, around Ireland and internationally. They have led learning exchanges where secondary students did art projects with adults who have learning disabilities and with asylum seekers who are in the process of immigrating. Having successfully waged a High Court case to acquire the educational supports to which Fionn was entitled, they have consulted with multiple schools on inclusion issues, and presented a workshop to the Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO). They have also written an article for the INTO's In Touch Magazine.

Offerings

The following is what we have delivered in the past, but we are open to your requests.

For school children age 4 to 12:

- Irish Folk Tales
- Animals (Our Adventures Meeting Mammals of the World; Life in the Ocean; Get Involved through Ecology and Conservation; The Humble Bees)
- Traditional Irish music (with discussion)
- Art Workshops and Group Projects

For students age 13 - 19:

- A Rewilding Story: Returning the White Tailed Sea Eagle to Ireland After 100 Years
- Social Justice and Inclusion
- Social Activism: Make the World a Better Place
- What I Learned by Asking 600 People One Question
- Traditional Irish Music (with discussion)
- Film Making: Telling the Story You Want to Tell
- Art Workshops and Group Projects



For school faculty:

- Cultivating Openness & Resilience to Include Students with Learning Challenges
- The Greater the Diversity of your School Population, the Greater the Educational Benefits

For the entire school community:

- Our Journey through the Irish Education and Medical Systems
- Our Amazing Travel Adventures: From the Amazon to Zanzibar and Around the World
- Finding My Life Path by Asking 600 People What They Love About Theirs
- Down Syndrome Isn't Funny: A Stand-Up Comedy Routine (with Music)
- Radical Inclusion Workshops for Your Community
- Slide show presentation, Q&A, punctuated with short musical interludes, telling the story of our project
- Visioning workshop for creating a good life
- Starting a group targeting local change, e.g. better options for therapies, education, employment or small enterprise start-ups, or full access to personal budgets
- Setting up and managing a family-run support system, which can include paid employment for the individual being supported
- Creating a promotional video for your group
- Individual family consultations, as one-offs or regularly scheduled clinics

For educational conferences:

- Living with Disability and Navigating the Social Care System in Ireland
- Our Journey through Irish Education and Medical Systems
- Creating a Support System on which to Build a Good Life
- Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
- First Steps toward a National System of Empowerment for People w/ Disabilities



Testimonials

"We thoroughly enjoyed Fionn and Jonathan's visit. They have a great rapport with the children and create a great atmosphere in the classroom. The material is very interesting and relevant to our SESE studies and it was delivered in a very engaging manner."

– Galway Educate Together National School

"The children in all classes enjoyed the visit and workshop with Fionn and Jonathan. Both had a great knowledge of Irish mammals and habitats. The traditional Irish music was excellent. The children thoroughly enjoyed the outdoor games played also. The stories of their adventures and travels had the children totally engaged."

– Rathbane National School, Mayo

"Each class was so engaged. They pitched their material at the right level for each class level and had a wonderful rapport with the children. They have a wealth of knowledge about Irish mammals. They also tapped into local knowledge which was of great interest to the children."

– Tierneevin NS, Galway

"An excellent engaging visit. The facilitators had a great manner and interacted so well with pupils at junior and senior level. The pupils really enjoyed the session and this was evident to teachers during the visit and from feedback received afterwards."

– Kilmainhamwood N.S., Meath

"Jonathan and Fionn are intriguing to listen to and there's a lovely dynamic between them. The little anecdotes really consolidated learning for the children. They enjoyed the whole experience! It is rare to have people who gauge where to pitch it so perfectly for the class level."

– **Scoil Phádraig Naofa, Kildare**

"A fantastic visit enjoyed by all the children and staff. We couldn't recommend Jonathan and Fionn highly enough....they were amazing!!! We were so happy that they also shared their music talents with us."

– **St. Edan's N.S., Wexford**

"We had the best 2 days with Fionn and Johnathan. Jonathan has an excellent rapport with Fionn and with the children. The children loved every second and learned so much more than just heritage. They were shown how people should speak and interact with one another. It was a joy to watch the father and son interact. Thank you very much Fionn and Johnathan."

– **Sessiaghoneill NS, Donegal**

"Such a worthwhile visit. The children gained so much, in many ways, from their interactions with Fionn and Jonathan"

– **Barnatra NS, Mayo**

"We had a great day with Fionn and Jonathan. The children learned so many things about Irish animals and their habitats along with a great action song. They also got a chance to hear Fionn and Jonathan play traditional Irish music and to play animal-themed games outdoors. Fionn and Jonathan had such a lovely way of interacting with the kids and delivered their content in a really accessible way complete with lovely stories and animal images that really captured the children's interest. They had a lovely presence in the classroom. I would be delighted to have them back again in the future."

– **St.Patrick's NS, Ballyfarnon, Roscommon**