

CEIST is the trustee body for the voluntary secondary schools of the Daughters of Charity, the Presentation Sisters, the Sisters of the Christian Retreat, the Sisters of Mercy and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

### Feature

#### CEIST Fourth Annual Educational Conference

Our Fourth Annual Education Conference was held recently in the Clayton Hotel, Ballybrit, Co. Galway. This year in addition to our Principals and Deputy Principals, we invited Chairpersons from the School Boards of Management, and their presence greatly added to the conference.

CEIST would like to thank all who attended and we hope the conference was both an enjoyable and beneficial experience for you. Pictured on right are Calasanctius College, Oranmore performing at one of the conference liturgies.

CEIST would also like to sincerely thank all of our speakers for their insightful presentations and workshops.

The Conference programme and many of the presentations along with feedback from our evaluation sheets distributed at the conference will be made available in our revamped Members' Area, which is due to "go live" shortly.



### CEIST News



#### CEIST Website and Members' Area Developments

We have re-developed our website and some of the changes include dedicated sections from each of our departments, i.e. Faith Development, School Support and Finance.

It is hoped the new website will promote more sharing of relevant resources and we will look to promote our schools at every opportunity within our Schools Section.

The Members' Area has also been revamped and it is being finalised at present and will be going live shortly. Access to this private site will be given initially to our Principals and Deputy Principals, CEIST Board of Directors and CEIST Members.

#### CEIST Prayers for Chairs



#### Changes in the West

Congratulations to Sr Margaret Buckley (Sisters of the Christian Retreat, Mountbellew) on her appointment as Diocesan Adviser to the Diocese of Elphin.

[MORE >](#)

### Don't Forget

#### New Boards of Management Training - JMB/Trustees

The following is the list of venues and times for the New Boards of Management Training by the JMB and Trustee bodies.

[MORE >](#)

### Faith-related Issues

#### A Morning With Megan McKenna

Megan McKenna once again joined forces with CEIST and gave a day for our teachers in Kilmurry Lodge, Limerick, on Saturday 10th October.

[MORE >](#)

### News from CEIST Schools

#### Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda Win Prestigious International Competition!

Students in Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda have won a prestigious "mock trial" international competition in New York.

[MORE >](#)

#### CEIST Schools Compete in Co-operation Ireland School Choirs Competition

The inaugural All-Ireland schools choir competition involving 80 schools from Ireland and Northern Ireland has now been whittled down to 20 schools competing in 4 regional heats.

St. Joseph's Rochfortbridge reached the Sligo regional finals and five choirs reached the Cork regional stage, two of which were CEIST schools; Presentation Secondary school, Ballyphehane, and Presentation Secondary School, Loughboy, Kilkenny.

[MORE >](#)



#### St. Aloysius School, Cork Celebrate 170 years of Mercy Education

St. Aloysius Secondary School, Cork was founded in 1839 and is now 170 years old. A Celebration was held on Mercy Day 24th September 2009.

[MORE >](#)



#### Lisdoonvarna - 60th Jubilee

Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare, recently celebrated their 60th Anniversary.

[MORE >](#)



#### Mercy College, Woodford 50th Celebrations

Saturday 26th September marked a red letter day for education in South East Galway as Mercy College Woodford, celebrated its 50th Anniversary.

[MORE >](#)



#### Sancta Maria College, Ballyroan Students visit to Kenya

A Student from Sancta Maria College wrote the following article on the school trip to Kenya to do volunteer work in June 2009. The article gives an eye-opening account of the students experiences of conditions in Kenya with quotes from several students.

[MORE >](#)



#### Presentation College, Currylea, Tuam Student Achievements

Presentation College Currylea, Tuam, Co. Galway, students received their results on Wednesday 9-9-2009 from their new principal Ms. Marie O'Rourke.

[MORE >](#)



#### News from Colaiste Muire, Ennis

Congratulations to Bronwyn Power, Leaving Cert student at Colaiste Muire Ennis on her outstanding results. She was one of eleven students in the country to achieve 8 A1s in her Leaving Certificate.

[MORE >](#)

#### News from Presentation Secondary School, Galway

Presentation Secondary School, Galway have kindly shared with us some news and photos from recent events in the school.

[MORE >](#)

### Reviews



#### Slí Chun Dé

Cuirim fáilte ó chroí roimh Slí Chun Dé: Searmansaís Phaidreoiréachta do Dhéagóirí atá curtha ar fáil do dhéagóirí, do shéilínigh agus do mhúinteoirí ag an tSiúr Mairéad Ní Bhuachalla, ball de Ord Siúrachta na Carthannachta.

Le fáil ó: Áis. Fón 01 6616522

Foilseacháin Ábhair Spioradálta. Fón 01 7758502

Costas: €10



# News & Events

## Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

## Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)



## Changes in the West

Thursday 10th September 2009

Congratulations to Sr Margaret Buckley (Sisters of the Christian Retreat, Mountbellew) on her appointment as Diocesan Adviser in the Diocese of Tuam.

We wish her every blessing at this exciting time for her.

We are delighted that Sr Margaret will continue her great work as a member of CEIST.

Sr Margaret takes over from Sr Dympna Stack (also of the Sisters of the Christian Retreat in Mountbellew).

Sr Dympna carried out the work of the Diocesan Adviser with great enthusiasm and energy and was very highly regarded in the role.

Sr Dorothy Sommers (Presentation Sisters, Tuam) also retires this year after many years of wonderful service.

We wish her well in her new endeavours.



# News & Events

## Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

## Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

## New Boards of Management Training - JMB/Trustees

Tuesday 20th October 2009

Date	Location	Hotel
Saturday 7th November 9.30 - 2.30pm	Cork	Rochestown Park Hotel Phone: 021-4890800
Saturday 7th November 9.30 - 2.30pm	Dublin North	City North Hotel Gormanstown, Co. Meath Phone: 01-6906626
Saturday 7th November 9.30 - 2.30pm	Athlone	Hodson Bay Hotel Phone: 090-6442000
Saturday 14th November 9.30 - 2.30pm	Limerick	Strand Hotel 061-421887
Saturday 14th November 9.30 - 2.30pm	Galway	Courtyard, Marriott Galway Phone: 091-513200
Saturday 14th November 9.30 - 2.30pm	Kilkenny	Lyrath House Hotel Phone: 056-7760088
Saturday 21st November 9.30 - 2.30pm	Dundalk	Fairways Hotel 042-9321500
Saturday 21st November 9.30pm - 2.30pm	Dublin South	Red Cow Hotel 01-4593650
Saturday 21st November 9.30 - 2.30pm	Sligo	Sligo Park Hotel Pearse Road, Sligo. Phone: 071-9169556



## Megan McKenna Day



**“We Live inside a Story”**

**A Morning with Megan McKenna**

Megan McKenna once again joined forces with CEIST and gave a day for our teachers in Kilmurry Lodge, Limerick, on Saturday 10th October.

Megan began with her trademark observation that “All stories are true and some of them actually happened” telling us that “when I say ‘Once upon a time’ it is happening to you”. She spoke of the ways in which stories always, at some level, teach us about truth, and of the ways in which they enable us to see ourselves from many vantage points. During the morning Megan shared with us the story of ‘Truth and Story’ – concluding that wherever Story goes Truth is told!

The theme of the day was that we all live inside a story, and the image used was that of Russian Matryoshka dolls. We might have assumed that she would begin with the smallest of the dolls, representing ourselves, and work outwards through family, local community, the wider world and so forth. However Megan suggested that we should begin with the largest of the dolls representing the Trinity, the Universe and the Creation Story; working through the Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery and thus gradually reach the innermost doll, situated deep inside the heart of God.

She proclaimed the story of the Baptism of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Mark and allowed us to listen, to hear and to discuss it. We came to understand the reality of our interconnectedness; the importance of not only listening for ourselves, but of sharing. What we hear is not necessarily for ourselves, but to be shared with others; what others hear is to be shared with us.

Christian Community must be based on the two pillars of Scripture and Liturgy. Without these pillars what we are calling ‘Christian Community’ is founded on little more than friendship groups. Important as these are, the Christian community is called to a more radical reality.

We each live inside a story; and that story, is much larger than any of us.



# News & Events

## Recent News

### Keywords

### Category

### Month

### Year

SEARCH

## Events

### CEIST Annual Conference

### E-News

### Monthly School Feature

## Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda Win Mock Trials in New York!

Saturday 24th October 2009

Students in Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda have won a prestigious "mock trial" international competition in New York.

Ten fifth year students beat 18 other schools at the Mock Trial Association Empire City Invitational.

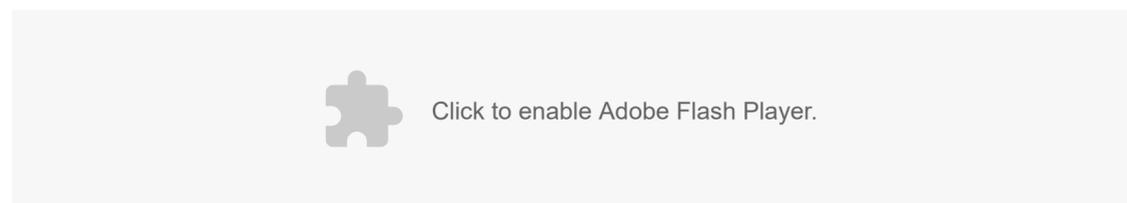
As transition-year students last year, the girls won the all-Ireland mock trials competition in May, which took place in the Four Court.

The schools taking part in the Empire City Invitational were from across the United States, the UK and South Africa.

The Irish students defeated New Jersey state champion Mainland Regional High School, having defeated four other schools on the way to the final.

We have included below the interview that Morning Ireland conducted on the 20th October with Student Emily Walker and Teacher Ms. Hanratty.

Click on arrow button under photo to play podcast.



Assistant tournament director David John Hommel praised the girls' "incredible talent" and said they were the "heart and soul" of this year's competition.

Greenhills student Aoife Downes said she and two other students who were attorneys in the mock trial hope to go on to study law when they finish school.

"We're absolutely delighted. We weren't really expecting to win.

"We didn't know what the standard would be like and it was really tough. We were up against really good teams."

Greenhills principal Pádraig Byrne said mock trials, where students grapple with the rigours of the justice system, are excellent ways of teaching children to think on their feet and to apply the knowledge they have learned.

"It will be a great boost to their confidence, and an example of what hard work and long hours of practice could do," he said.

The team consisted of barristers **Aoife Downes, Jessica Taggart and Emily Walker**, witnesses **Theresa McKenna, Aine Carolan, Tara Gallagher, Derbhail Kerr, Niamhin O'Dowd and Jessica Rielly** and solicitor **Katie Casey**.

Click [here](#) to see our previous article featuring Our Lady's College All-Ireland mock trials win.



# News & Events

## Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

## Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)



## CEIST Schools Reach Co-operation Ireland Regional School Choirs Finals

Friday 23rd October 2009

The inaugural All-Island schools choir competition involving 80 schools from Ireland and Northern Ireland has now been whittled down to 20 schools competing in 4 regional heats.

St. Joseph's Rochfortbridge reached the Sligo regional finals and five choirs reached the Cork regional stage, two of which are CEIST schools; Presentation Secondary school, Ballyphehane, and Presentation Secondary School, Loughboy, Kilkenny.

They competed with Ursuline Convent Secondary School, Thurles, Newtown School, Waterford and Clongowes Wood College who moved the audience with their almost Welsh-choir like voices.



Pictured on left, Anne Cassin, who compered Co operation Ireland National Choirs regional final at the Cork school of Music.

Joan Farrell, daughter of CEIST Faith Development Co-ordinator, Margaret, led the Ursuline Convent Secondary School, Thurles in a magnificently delivered rendition of Maria Matrem & the complex Las Amarillas.

Newtown School, Waterford, delighted the audience with "The Long & Winding Road" and a moving Traditional entitled "Every time I Feel the Spirit".

Presentation Secondary School Ballyphehane, did themselves proud with a lively rendition of "Gershwin for Girls" and delighted the audience with their interpretation of "Geibheann", composed by Rhona Clarke.

Principal Sheila Kelleher was present and justifiably proud of the schools achievement.

To the delight of everyone, Presentation Secondary School Loughboy, Kilkenny, were the outright winners and will participate in the National Finals on Nov. 15 th, in Belfast, which will be televised live on RTE1.

Under the animated direction of Ms. Veronica McCarron and with accompanist Veronica Collier , the school stole the show with their magnificent rendition of "La Cumparsita", an Argentinian Tango by Rodriquez and a second entry entitled "Gaudete", a 16th Century Madrigal by Cantiones.



Pictured above are Presentation Secondary School, Loughboy girls in action, with Veronica Collier conducting.

The School Principal, Shane Hallihan and Deputy Principal, Mary Ryan , were present at the event, as well as former Principal, Cathal Cullen.



Pictured on left are the adjudicators with the Principal & Deputy Principal, Presentation Secondary School, Loughboy, Kilkenny, following their win.

The CEIST CEO, Anne Kelleher, also attended the final and was delighted to see Presentation Loughboy winning and looking forward to watching them competing in the National Final in the Ulster Hall in Belfast on the 15th November, which is to be televised live on RTE1.

Click [here](#) to view further details from the Co-Operation Ireland website.

We will be adding Video's to this page of the various regional finals shortly.



#### Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

#### Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)



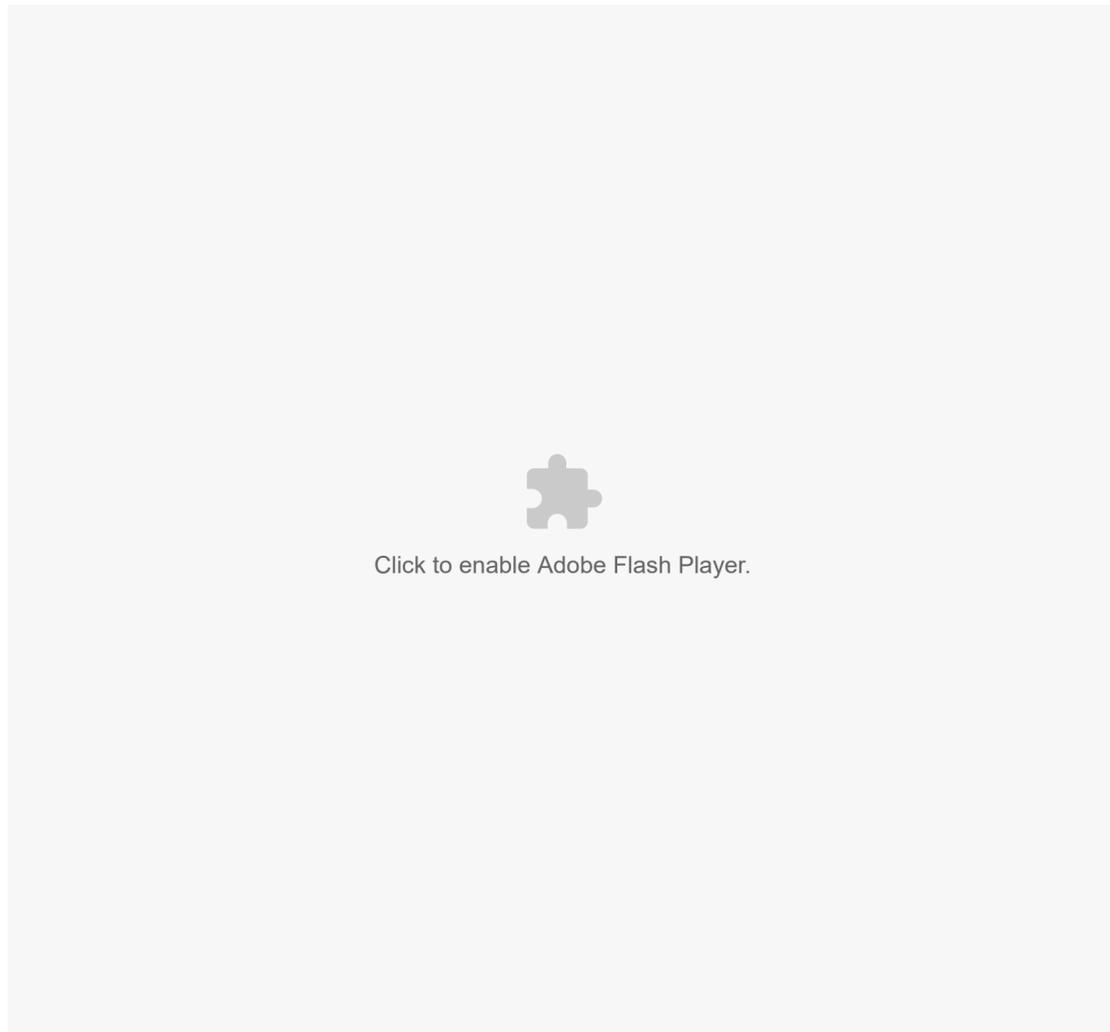
## St. Aloysius School, Cork Celebrate 170 Years of Mercy Education

Tuesday 13th October 2009

St. Aloysius School, Cork have kindly shared with us photos from their recent celebration of 170 years of Mercy education in the school.

The school was founded in 1839 and fittingly the celebration was held on Mercy Day, 24th September 2009.

Click [here](#) to view our profile of St. Aloysius, Cork. **Place mouse pointer over photo's to view details.**





# News & Events

## Recent News

### Keywords

### Category

--- Select ---

### Month

Any

### Year

Any

SEARCH

## Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)



## Lisdoonvarna - Diamond Jubilee

Wednesday 14th October 2009

All roads led to Lisdoonvarna on Saturday night October 3rd 2009, not for the King or Queen of the Burren competition which was in full swing in the Hydro, but for a past pupils reunion. The school is celebrating its diamond anniversary having opened as a secondary school in September 1949.

Pioneering Sisters of Mercy left the comfort of their convent in Ennistymon, bought a guest house, Tivoli House, in Lisdoonvarna, with the blessing of Bishop Browne, and set up school. Twenty girls enrolled in the first year class of 1949 and a staggering 500 past pupils turned up at their alma mater to say thank you, to celebrate and acknowledge the tremendous work of mercy by the many Sisters who graced their convent Tivoli House over the years.

The students came in their throngs and strolled around the school looking for their class photograph on the wall and commenting on the improved facilities now available to the present cohort of students. Principal John O'Loughlin is said to be eager to get his hands on the year group photographs which are absent and which he would love to see gracing the walls of Mary Immaculate. So if you have some old class or group photographs contact John at the school.

Having walked the school, visited the convent and said a prayer in the former convent chapel now the Cúinrath the past pupils picked up a copy of the Diamond Jubilee Booklet which Sr. Margaret Mary signed. This booklet is available from the school and would make a lovely Christmas present and keepsake memory of time spent in Mary Immaculate. The past pupils, teachers and many Sisters of Mercy filled the parish church to capacity for a mass full of symbolism and thanksgiving.

John O'Loughlin and Sr. Bride McNamara (Sr. Sacred Heart) carried two lighting candles up the aisle of a darkened church and then proceeded to light two flames draped in the Clare colours at the top of the altar by way of symbolising the bringing of the light of education to Lisdoonvarna many years ago and the nurturing of this light into the future. John then gave a little bit of recent history when he outlined the change in trusteeship and invited Sr. Elizabeth Manning, Provincial of the Mercy congregation and Ms. Anne Kelleher, CEO of CEIST to light a candle signifying the handing over of trusteeship from Mercy to CEIST.

The school choir prepared by Sr. Gertrude Brosnan and Dympna O'Donohue with soloists Ronan Fahy (present student) and Peter O'Donohue (past pupil) added to the sense of reverence and thanksgiving. After mass Sr. Elizabeth Manning together with Sr. Margaret Mary Jordan, Sisters of Mercy Lisdoonvarna, Anne Kelleher and John Stack of John Stack Builders unveiled the school name over the main door of the former convent.

Off to the Falls Hotel where past pupils enjoyed a jubilee dinner, cut the jubilee cake baked by Ann Doherty, past pupil, from the Spa Hotel Lisdoonvarna, and danced the night away till the dawning of the day.

The organising committee of Diarmuid Drennean MC, John Kenny, Marie Danagher Swain, Ann Gardiner Harrington, Mary Dunleavy O'Donoghue, Kathleen Connolly Gibbons, Brendan Cusack, John Sims, Sr. Margaret Mary and John O'Loughlin expressed their delight at the success of the night and plan to have another in 15 years time. Sr. Maura Crowe, Chairperson of the Board of Management saluted all the Sisters and Staff who because of their love for the people, have by their dedication, their personal sacrifices and their solid belief in the value of education, faithfully kept the vision alive, providing this centre of excellence in education, which is known as Mary Immaculate Secondary School.

She paid a special tribute to the present teaching staff, secretarial staff and maintenance personnel. She went on to say "the vision of our founders would not have taken root if the people of Lisdoonvarna had not responded with enthusiasm, generosity and appreciation. Lisdoonvarna loves its own School. Over the past years I have experienced that generosity and appreciation when we had fundraising socials for the school and also I have seen valuable contribution made by the Parents' Association on so many occasions. This testifies to the goodwill that can be harnessed in support of Mary Immaculate".

"I experience at first hand a sincere sharing of expertise on the B.O.M. The members give a lot of their time for the good of the school; they make a huge commitment but they are all glad to do it for the sake of the school. We are very grateful to all our members, past and present".

Sr. Maura Crowe mentioned the recent Whole School Evaluation. "The school report was excellent and I would like to congratulate the Staff and students but, also you, parents, whose sons and daughters made such an outstanding contribution to this success".

Sr. Maura referred to the quality of leadership in Mary Immaculate over the years. She went on to say "Mary Immaculate has been blessed with great leaders and teachers over the years. I won't name them. You know who they are and what they have done.

In our own day we have a committed, inspiration and gifted leader in the person of a former student, Mr. John O'Loughlin. He is ably assisted by a talented, dynamic and dedicated Deputy Principal – Mrs. Dympna O'Donohue, who is married to a former student!"

### Pictures from the Celebrations



Official unveiling of plaque with name of school.

Standing: Anne Kelleher (CEO CEIST), John O'Loughlin (Principal), Sr. Maura Crowe (Chairperson BOM), Teresa Callinan Griffey, Dolly Flaherty Jordan, Kathleen Connolly Gibbons, Mary Maher Cunningham, Bernadette Moriarty McCarthy, Helen Linnane Fedeli, John Stack (Builder) Sr. de Lourdes Fahy, Sr. Elizabeth Manning (Provincial Leader Mercy Congregation)

Sitting: Sr. Aloysius Blewitt, Sr. Gertrude Brosnan, Sr. Brigid Blewitt, Sr. Breda Freeeley, Sr.

Margaret Mary Jordan, Sr. Bride McNamara



Six students from the class of 1949 with founding Sisters of Mercy

Standing: Teresa Callinan Griffey, Dolly Flaherty Jordan, Kathleen Connolly Gibbons, Mary Maher Cunningham, Bernadette Moriarty McCarthy and Helen Linnane Fedeli.

Seated: Sr. Margaret Mary Jordan and Sr. Bride McNamara (Founding Sisters).



Mercy Sisters Lisdoonvarna say farewell to their convent, Tivoli House.

Pictured (LtoR) Sr. Aloysius Blewitt, Sr. Una Daly, Sr. Margaret Mary Jordan, Sr. Breda Freeeley



Pictured on left are the class of 1965.

### Diamond Jubilee Speeches

[Principal's Diamond Jubilee Speech](#)

[Words of Welcome by the Principal at the Diamond Jubilee Mass](#)

[CEIST CEO Speech](#)



# News & Events

## Recent News

### Keywords

### Category

### Month

### Year

SEARCH

## Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

## Celebrating 50 Years of Post Primary Education

Saturday 26th September 2009

Saturday 26th September marked a red letter day for education in South East Galway as Mercy College Woodford, celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The local community, past and present pupils, teacher's, principles and representatives of the Sisters of Mercy all came together to celebrate the event. Bishop of Galway, Rev John Kirby, officiated at the Mass which was con -celebrated by local priests from a number of the outlying parishes.

Such is the importance of this Secondary School to education in this region, that community representatives from as far afield as Whitegate, Scarriff and Mountshannon in North Clare were present as well as those from Derryrober, Abbey, Duniry, Portumna, Loughrea, Kilnadeema Leitrim Peterswell and Derrybrien as well as the local parish's of Woodford, Ballinakill and Looscan. Indeed past pupils of the last 5 decades travelled from as far afield as America, Australia, Europe, England and through out Ireland to help participate in the days events.

Recognition of the work of the Mercy Order to the provision of education in this isolated area of South East Galway was outlined in Bishop Kirby's homily. The Sisters of Mercy arrival in Woodford in 1900 has been followed by over a century's dedication to the progression of both education and health care within this region. The importance of this educational backbone to the local community was reinforced by the guest speakers, local historian Martin Fahy, and Ms Ann Kelleher CEO of CEIST. CEIST is the new trust body for Mercy Woodford.

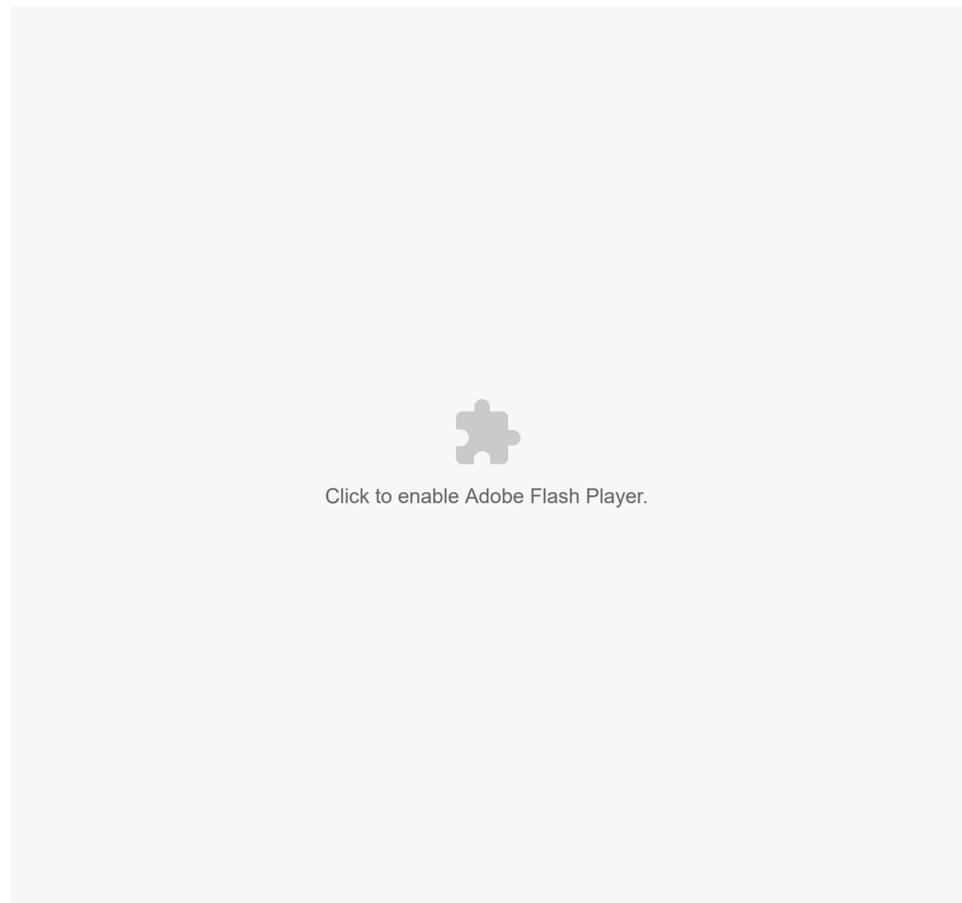
Ms Loreto Quinn-Canning, current Principal of Mercy College, spoke of the inclusive nature of the education streams undertaken in the College at present which though under pressure due to current funding constrains, are integral to the ethos of the school. In association with the Department of Education, Woodford Mercy College's, piloting of educational innovations, for the last 30 yrs, has been a major element of the school's pioneering attitude which harks back to an era in the 1920's when the Sisters of Mercy were the leaders in this areas local primary education.

In recent years the College has developed a deserved reputation in the provision of excellent special needs education, along side maintaining extremely high standards in academic, artistic and sporting endeavours. It requires little investigation to understand how central this College has become to the maintenance of a vibrant and viable community within this beautiful yet isolated part of Galway.

Once the formal activities were completed, the celebrations continued at the Mercy College, where St Loreto McLaughlin, unveil a plaque in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary. Student Choir and local musicians provided entertainment, while the dedicated members of the Parents Association, allied by generous donations from local business, provided refreshments for all present. The endearing images of the event will be the friends and acquaintances gathered in groups, big and small, around faded photos, remembering past events, victories and departed friends. With sweethearts remembered, arguments forgotten and dreams rekindled. One wonders what changes the next 50 yrs bring to this beautiful part of Galway?

In an era of sound bites such as 'Smart economy' 'Knowledge economy' 'Sustainable development' there is no doubt that educational facilities and community resources like Mercy College Woodford, are tangible evidence of the ability of small communities to influence the wider world. In order to continue to achieve these aims they have to be encouraged and sustained to allow them to continue to play a major part in this region, and indeed this nation's, resurgence on the world stage. **Place mouse pointer over images below to view details.**

### Photos from the Celebrations





# News & Events

## Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

## Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)



## Sancta Maria College, Ballyroan Volunteer Work in Kenya

Tuesday 13th October 2009

Having spent nine months fundraising, myself and nine other students, together with three teachers, travelled to the slums of Nairobi in Kenya to do volunteer work in June 2009. Our school, Sancta Maria College, has been involved in this project since 2004 and this was the fourth trip Sancta Maria students made to Kenya. Since the beginning of the project in 2004, we have raised €100,000 for the project. Our contact in Kenya is Sister Mary Killeen, a Mercy sister from Dublin who has been working in Kenya for the past thirty years.

Our first taste of a Kenya childhood was a school classified as 'middle class'. By Irish standards, it was far from middle class. Tiny children were piled into the classrooms, about fifty to a class. The desks, meant for two, sat three or four. Yet, they greeted us with such wide smiles. We were amazed how Kenyan children were eager to sing and dance and perform for us. Each class offered us a spectacular display of their talents that put our jigs and reels to shame. As we moved to the more impoverished schools for slum children, the poverty became hugely apparent.

While at a slum school for 4 to 12 year olds, we played with over a thousand children as they played in their yard. They were amazed by our cameras and were shocked to see themselves on the screen. Many had never seen an image of themselves before. Posing for a picture, one Sancta Maria student put her arm around a little boy and got her finger stuck in one of the many holes in his jumper. When we visited their classrooms, the children showed us their copybooks, of which every scrap of the page was used.

We were delighted to be able to help many projects and schools in Kenya. Sr. Mary tries to ensure that every child in her local slum can get an education. She has also helped to organize training centers for young adults where they learn practical skills such as hairdressing, art, or clothes making so that in the future they will be able to provide for themselves and their families. These projects are also aimed at rehabilitating street children and disaffected youth from the slums, where alcohol, drugs, and child-prostitution are part of everyday life. We were amazed at how hard some of the students were working in effort to try and make their future a little brighter.

One particular project we were delighted to help was MUSA Sports project for street boys. This project is for teenage boys who are interested in football. Instead of loitering in the slums where the temptation to become addicted to drugs is overwhelming, these boys focus their time on football match and training. Their pitch lies on the bank of a disease-ridden river. As we played a game of football with the boys, we were shocked how frequently the ball would fall down into the river. The players were forced to crawl into the river to retrieve their ball. This river of sewage was such a health hazard that we decided that we would have to donate money to build a fence to stop this happening.

A walk through the second biggest slum in Nairobi, Mukuru, highlighted just how poverty stricken Nairobi is. Whole families live in tiny makeshift shacks made of corrugated iron. There is no proper sewage or drainage system, and the water supply is totally unreliable. The few communal toilets, shared by the whole community, are simply small rough cubicles dropping straight into the river.

We left Nairobi for three days to travel ten hours north to an impoverished village called Chepareria. We halved the journey by stopping after five hours in Nakuru, where we visited Punjani primary school. Within the grounds of this primary school, 1000 children attend classes but what makes this school rare is its 72 students with severe special needs. Shockingly, 55 of these young children have been abandoned and live at the school. We were thrilled to have been able to bring over 300kg of clothes, arts supplies and sports equipment and left two whole suitcases full at this school.

In Chepareria, a small village in West Pokot, Sr. Veronica Quigley runs a women's training centre. Teenage mothers learn the necessary skills they need to be independent. They live together on centre grounds with their children. They learn to cook, hairdress and make clothes. They have been abandoned by their men and live on site with their children. Unfortunately, the land the centre is built on is not owned by the centre. It's likely they will be made leave the site soon.

To prevent this wonderful project coming to an end, we purchased a plot of land on which a second centre will be built so the project will go on. At the moment, the centre can only provide two years training for the young ladies but with the help of the new land, they will be able to spend a third year, perfecting their skills. Without our donation, it is certain the project couldn't have continued.

Having visited so many projects and been welcomed by so many people, we were all so sad to leave Kenya. The trip was very emotional. It made us all so grateful for our life back home. What hit us all so strongly was how being born in Ireland is such a blessing and it was mere chance that put us living in our lovely residential estates and not on the streets of a Kenyan slum.

### Quotes:

#### Michelle Tighe

"It was such an eye-opening experience. I can't wait to go back in the future."

#### Emer Hackett

"Not a day goes by I don't remember some aspect of our trip to Kenya. I gained more life experience in my ten days there, than in my whole eighteen years at home."

#### Emma Dunne

"It was a once in a life time experience. I will never forget a single memory of the trip."

#### Shauna Byrne

"Seeing people smile with so little made me grateful for so much."

#### Clare Mac Entee

"After ten days, I got on a plane and left Kenya and it was heartbreaking knowing I was leaving so many people to live in devastating poverty. But knowing we'd done our best to help who we could made it a little bit easier."

#### Katherine Charters

"I really enjoyed spending time with the little children of the slums. It was amazing how their faces lit up doing such simple things, like singing a song."

#### Anna Marie Gleeson

"The people I met in Kenya, the people who have absolutely nothing are some of the happiest people I have ever met. I now know it would take so little from us on this side of the world to make such a big difference in their lives and yet."

#### Orlaith Hanrahan

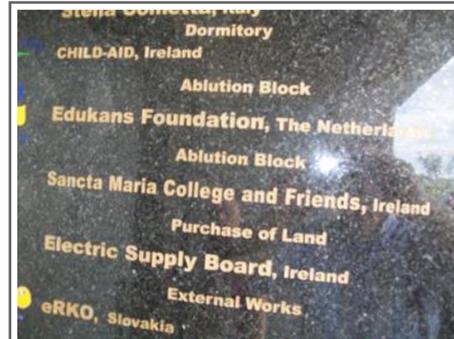
" Seeing such poverty has opened my eyes and I think entirely differently now. We're all so proud of the land we purchased, it shows how sustainable the project is."

#### Chiara Byrne

"It was a once in a life time opportunity and I am so grateful and lucky to have experienced it. it was great to be able to share it with 9 amazing girls. Our memories will last forever."

#### Laura Healy

"In Chepareria we meet teenage girls of our own age, it was amazing to see the contrast with the lives we live. We stayed in small huts no bigger than garden sheds. This was home to a girl and her children and all her belongings."



The plaque on the wall of the Drug Rehabilitation which was built on the plot of land purchased by Sancta Maria College students in 2004.

This is for street boys addicted to glue and drugs.

To date nearly 100 boys have successfully completed the programme.



Pictured (L-R back row), Gloria Leyden (Teacher) Helen Gaughan (Teacher), Orlaith Hanrahan, Shauna Byrne, Michelle Tighe, Clare MacEntee, Sr.Mary Killeen, Emer Hackett, Anna Marie Gleeson, Laura Healy, Martin Flynn (Teacher).

Front row l-r Katherine Charters, Chiara Byrne and Emma Dunne.



A polluted river beside where street boys in Musu Centre play football.

Some money was provided to built a fence to prevent ball from going into river.



# News & Events

## Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Any

Year

Any

SEARCH

## Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

## Presentation College, Currylea, Tuam Student Achievements

Tuesday 15th September 2009

Presentation College Currylea, Tuam, Co. Galway, students received their results on Wednesday 9-9-2009 from their new principal Ms.Maree O'Rourke.

Pictured below are Nicola Walsh and Edith Hughes who both received top marks in the Junior Certificate.

Leaving Cert student Ciara Loftus has just been awarded a scholarship from the Electronic and Computer Engineering Department in N.U.I Galway.

The scholarship is exclusively for girls who are interested in studying technology-related courses at third level and is only awarded to four students annually.

As well as cash, Ciara will be linked to a mentor from Intel Shannon and receives a work placement in Intel Shannon every summer for the duration of her course





# News & Events

## Recent News

### Keywords

### Category

### Month

### Year

SEARCH

## Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

## News from Presentation Galway

Tuesday 6th October 2009

Presentation Secondary School, Galway recently held their opening year Mass and have kindly shared with us photo from the ceremony.

Pictured below (LtoR) are Laura Coughlan (Music & RE Teacher), Cliona Ni Neill Principal, Fiona Daly Leaving Cert and Choirmember, Chaplain - Fr. Martin Downey, Roisin Cribbin, 5th yr and choirmember, Sr Helen Hyland Leader of Presentation Community - Presentation Rd, Nicole Gibbons, Leaving Cert and Choirmember, Seamus Mc Guinness RE and Choir.



## School bags and Back & Spine Health

Presentation Parents' Council organized a very practical and informative session for our students today on Back Health and posture and how to avoid strain on muscles and joints. This was a very timely and health promoting session

Trish, a Chartered Physiotherapist gave demonstrations on the correct methods of lifting, wearing and load weights of school bags and answered many questions from students on this issue.

Many thanks to the Parents Council for organizing and funding this session.

Pictured below are Niamh Hartnett 5th yr student, Cliona Ni Neill Principal, Trish - Galway Physiotherapist and Sandra Wall 5th yr student.





# News & Events

## Recent News

### Keywords

### Category

### Month

### Year

SEARCH

## Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

## News from Coláiste Muire, Ennis

Friday 18th September 2009

Congratulations to Bronwyn Power, Leaving Cert student at Coláiste Muire Ennis on her outstanding results.



Bronwyn pictured on left was one of eleven students in the country to achieve 8 A1s in her Leaving Certificate.

The school Principal, Ms. Jean Pound, had the following to say on Bronwyn's achievements and contribution to the local school community;

"We are particularly pleased for Bronwyn who excelled not alone on the academic front. She made a very valuable contribution to the school community throughout her five years in Coláiste Muire. She was a member of our school

choir and school orchestra. Bronwyn gave generously of her free time, playing in the orchestra for several school shows.

She will now, together with two of her classmates, begin her studies in Medicine.

We are very proud of the achievements of all our Leaving Cert and Leaving Cert Applied students 2009 and wish them continued success in their studies and fulfilment in their future careers.

Well done to all concerned.

Coláiste Muire welcomes Minister O'Keefe and Sharon Shannon

On Thursday 17th September, Coláiste Muire Ennis welcomed Minister O'Keefe and Sharon Shannon to their school.



The purpose of the visit was to mark Sharon Shannon's donation of a CD of traditional music and songbook which the Department will distribute to every school.

Coláiste Muire's traditional musicians played for the invited guests.

After the photocall, Sharon, a past pupil of Coláiste Muire joined the school's traditional musicians for a short concert (see below)

