



news from ceist...

30 November 2009

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

Colaiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal. Seoidín.

Following the success of the 'Malaí Draíochta' or bags of magic last year, this year Colaiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal, decided to continue to try to promote reading of Irish among primary school children attending school through Irish, but to concentrate this time on students in third, fourth, fifth and sixth classes.



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Transition Year students wrote the stories, first year students made the puppets and parents helped with making the bags, teaching the students how to make the puppets and with the printing. Galway County Council and Údarás na Gaeltachta supported the project to such a generous extent that the books were distributed free of charge to all Gaeltacht schools in Connemara.

The books featured in Radio na Gaeltachta, on TG4 and in the Connacht Tribune at the time.

Much of the credit for the success of the project was due to the huge work of the home/school/community liaison Eibhlín Ní Shúilleabhain.

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CEIST News



Enhancing Continuous Professional Development/Developing Leadership 2009

As a result of dialogue with our schools, we are made aware that leadership development of all school personnel is one of the on-going needs of CEIST schools.

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School Retreats

[CLICK HERE](#)

The Cry of the Earth

The Cry of the Earth is the title of the Irish Bishops' Conference pastoral reflection on the challenges of climate change.

[More Details](#)

St Leo's College Carlow Inaugural Catherine McAuley Lecture

As part of its ongoing celebrations to honour the 170 years of the presence of the Mercy congregation in Carlow, a warm welcome is extended to all in the CEIST network, to attend the Inaugural Catherine McAuley lecture, which will take place at St. Leo's College, Dublin Road, Carlow, on Wednesday, December 16th, 2009 at 7.15 p.m.

The lecture will be delivered by journalist and broadcaster Olivia O'Leary, a former pupil of St. Leo's.

The theme of the lecture concerns the vision and values of Catherine McAuley and how they remain relevant to contemporary society.

Please advise Miss Mairead Redmond of your attendance by e-mailing mredmond@siteoscarrow.ie on or before December 10th.

Faith-related Issues



Advent Resources

The Faith Development Team in CEIST prepared the following prayer resources for celebrating the season of Advent and Christmas.

[MORE >](#)



School Faith Development Policy

The CEIST Faith Development Team have formulated a document to assist our Schools in working towards the creation of a Faith Development Policy.

[MORE >](#)

News from CEIST Schools



News from Mercy College, Sligo

Students from the Mercy College in Chapel Hill, Sligo publish an electronic newsletter every two weeks.

Click [here](#) to download the latest e-newsletter from the school.

Congratulations to Mercy College Student, Ciara Schmidt, who recently won local and regional finals of the Sligo Rotary Youth Leadership Competition.

[MORE >](#)



Presentation Secondary School Clonmel Annual School Show

The High School and Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel presented "Disco Inferno" as their annual school show in St. Joseph's, Ferryhouse, Clonmel on Friday and Saturday 23rd & 24th October. This joint schools project has been running for 33 years.

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Presentation Secondary School Galway Celebrates Presentation Day

Presentation Secondary School, Galway, Presentation Day Celebrations began with a Mass in St. Joseph's Church for the school community of students, all of their staff & parents together with Sisters from the Presentation Convent.

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Profile on St. Joseph's Secondary School, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

Our School Feature for the Month of December is from St. Joseph's Secondary School, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, who have kindly shared information about the school along with recent news and events.

[MORE >](#)



Coláiste Na Toirbhirte, Bandon Student Achievements

The Principal Ms. Frances O'Mahony and all of the staff at Colaiste na Toirbhirte, Bandon, Co. Cork send their warmest congratulations to both Sheila Johnson and Aibhlín O'Leary on receiving scholarships into UCG.

Both students received 580 points in their Leaving Certificate.

Warmest congratulations too to Orla McCarthy who was awarded the All-Ireland Scholarship 3rd level award sponsored by JP McManus.

Orla was presented with her award by Minister Batt O'Keeffe at an awards ceremony attended by President Mary McAleese at University Concert Hall Limerick on Sat. Nov. 21st.

Orla is studying pharmacy at UCC while Sheila studies BioMed and Aibhlín studies Scientific Law at UCG.

Best of luck to one and all.

Reflecting CEIST Values



Social Inclusion Competition for 2nd Level Schools

A competition is run by South Dublin County Council for secondary schools in South Dublin with the following objectives.

[MORE >](#)

Reviews



WHAT BEING CATHOLIC MEANS TO ME

Approximately 25 people from all walks of life contribute short essays on what it means to them to be a Catholic in this very interesting book.

The contributors include: Conor Brady (former editor of Irish Times), Finola Bruton (wife of former taoiseach John), Professor Patricia Casey, Thomas Finegan, Sean Kelly (MEP and Member of CEIST), Mary T. Malone, Fr. Enda McDonagh, Fr. Peter McVerry, S.J. Andrew O'Connell, Mary O'Donnell (poet and novelist), Colm O'Gorman (Author and currently with Amnesty International), Garry O'Sullivan (editor of Irish Catholic), Professor William Reville Brendan Ryan (former Senator), Fr. Aidan Troy, Rev. D. Vincent Twomey and John Waters (Irish Times).

What Being Catholic Means To Me is edited by John Littleton and Eamon Maher, published by The Columba Press and priced at €14.99.

[MORE >](#)



Where 2 + 2 = 5

This resource consists of a Documentary Film Where 2 + 2 = 5, produced by Esperanza Productions, that tells the story of the life of Irish priest Fr. Pat Clarke and his work in Sao Paolo.

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Colaiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal. Seoidín.

Saturday 28th November 2009

Click [here](#) if you would like to read Irish Version of article.

Following the success of the 'Malai Draíochta' or bags of magic last year, this year the school decided to continue to try to promote reading of Irish among primary school children attending school through Irish, but to concentrate this time on students in third, fourth, fifth and sixth classes.

The 'Malai Draíochta' contained short novels and puppets, and were intended to encourage Gaeltacht parents to read Irish with their young children. Transition Year students wrote the stories, first year students made the puppets and parents helped with making the bags, teaching the students how to make the puppets and with the printing.

Galway County Council and Údarás na Gaeltachta supported the project to such a generous extent that the books were distributed free of charge to all Gaeltacht schools in Connemara. The books featured on Radio na Gaeltachta, on TG4 and in the Connacht Tribune at the time. Much of the credit for the success of the project was due to the huge work of our home/school/community liaison Eibhlín Ní Shúilleabhain.

Transition year students, went on to win an enterprise competition organised by Údarás na Gaeltachta in 2009, with celebratory cards and personalised novels for junior and senior infant pupils in Gaeltacht primary schools. The students and their Business teacher Mairéad Uí Dhiollúin, deserve huge praise for their achievements, and for their confident radio interview afterwards.

Seoidín became the next mad project. Seoidín was the brainchild of the home/school/community officer, Eibhlín Ní Shúilleabhain, who wanted to bring together parents, students, the wider community with local and national agencies. Again the focus was to be on promoting reading of Irish among Gaeltacht children. Galway County Council's Irish Officer Paid Ó Neachtain immediately offered his support, and was very involved in the project from inception to delivery. Udaras na Gaeltachta also supported us from the beginning.

On a national level, Muireann Ní Mhórain, of Cogg, was so taken with the project that she offered COGG's assistance in providing copies of Seoidín to all gaeltacht and all-Irish primary schools outside of Galway (Galway County Council looked after Galway schools). Parents, Teachers, Pupils and Past-Parents set to work writing. Illustrations were added by students and by parents involved in art classes at night in the school. A past parent, writer and actor Joe Steve Ó Neachtain (Ros na Rún) and parent and poet Louis De Paor generously contributed to the collection of stories, creative writings and drawings that constitute Seoidín.

Seoidín was ready, all that remained was to launch her on the public, and to create interest in her among the target audience. With the help of Gaelscoileanna and again Galway County Council, a reading symposium was organised by Brona Ní Uallacháin. The workshop involved stories being read and represented in dramatic form by fourth year students. The event was attended by 150 primary school students from surrounding schools. The students watched, listened and read stories with students and also did some creative writing of their own, with the help of Joe Steve Ó Neachtain, who worked with the young students in an atmosphere that was both fun and energetic.

The Leaving Cert rock band, well ...it rocked, especially when joined on stage by the primary school students. To hear from their teachers afterwards that the students continued to read the rest of the stories when back at school and at home gave every one involved a massive high.

And so we come to the grown up launch, which was more sedate but no less enjoyable. At the launch, which was held in the 'Crúiscin Lan' hotel in Spiddal on Thursday 19th November. Pádraig Ó hAoláin, CEO of Údarás na Gaeltachta spoke of the importance of initiatives such as Seoidín in the promotion of spoken Irish among the next generation. Pádraig was both eloquent and generous in his praise of the work that is Seoidín, and his kind words were much appreciated by the Parents, Teachers, Pupils, Past Pupils, and members of the local community who gathered on one of the most inclement nights yet. Paid Ó Neachtain spoke of Galway County Council's involvement in the project and in previous initiatives such as the symposium and our 'malai draíochta' project.

Páid spoke of the importance of encouraging interest in reading and he praised Eibhlín Ní Shúilleabhain, the writers, the artists and the printing work of Peadar Ó Gríofa in producing Seoidín. The Principal also spoke of her gratitude to all involved and especially of her pride in seeing the finished product being enjoyed by the very people for whom it was produced. There was wine, there was talk, there was traditional music from students, and there was pride and laughter before everyone re-donned the wellies and headed back out into the deluge.

Photo Album



Click to enable Adobe Flash Player.

Seoladh leabhair agus ceardlann léitheoireachta i gColaiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe.

Seoidín

Is éard atá i 'Seoidín' ná leabhairín scéalta nua ina bhfuil obair ó dhaltai, ó thuismitheoirí, ó mhúinteoirí agus ó iar thuismitheoirí Choláiste Chroí Mhuire An Spidéal, Co. Na Gaillimhe. Is leabhairín daite tarraingteach e, atá dírithe ar dhaltai bun scoile a bhfuil Gaeilge maith acu.

Leanann an togra seo ar na 'Malai Draíochta' a raibh an-tóir orthu cúpla bliain ó shin. Ag an am sin bhí sé mar aidhm againn díriú isteach ar phaistí i rang a dó. Bhí muid dóchasach go spreagfadh na húrscéalta beaga agus a gcuid puipeidí ina málaí draíochta thuismitheoirí Gaeltachta chun Gaeilge a léamh lena gcuid paistí óga. Fuair muid aiseolas an-chinealta agus fábharch ó ghach duine, agus thug sé sin misneach dúinn smaoinemh ar thogra eile a chur le chéile a láidreóidh an caidreamh idir na cómhpháirtithe oideachais ar fad i measc phobal na scoile, pobal na Gaeilge mórthimpeall orainn agus na heagraíochtaí Áitiúla agus Stáite a bhíonn ag plé le hoideachas agus le Gaeilge.

An uair seo, bheartaíomar díriú ar pháistí ó rang a trí go dtí rang a sé. Shocraigh muid go dtabharfadh muid cuireadh do thuisfí, do dhaltai, agus do mhúinteoirí piosáí a scríobh nó pictiúir a tharraingt, agus cnuasach beag saothar a chur le cheile. Chum thuismitheoirí amháin, an file mór le rá Louis de Paor dán nua don leabhar agus tá scéal ann freisin ón scríbhneoir gairmiúil Joe Steve Ó Neachtain.

Is í Ursula Murry thuismitheoir agus ealantóir a dhear an chlúdach. Chuir thuismitheoir Peadar Ó Gríofa G. Chló an leabhar i gcló. Ar ndóigh, murach Eibhlín Ní Shúilleabháin an tOifigeach Chaidreamh Bhaile agus Scoile, ní bheadh Seoidín ann in aon chor.

Beidh cóipeanna den leabhar bronnta ar ghach bun scoil gaeltachta agus ar ghach bhunscoil lánghaeilge sa tír. Is iad Chomhairle Condae na Gaillimhe agus COGG atá ag cur na leabhra ar fáil do na bun scoileanna. Tá muid go mór faoi chomaoin Údarás na Gaeltachta, freisin a thug cúnaimh dúinn leis an togra seo. Tugann sé an-mhisneach dúinn go bhfuil eagraíochtaí ar nós An Chomhairle Condae, COGG agis Údaras na Gaeltachta reidh agus sásta teacht i gcabhair dúinn aon uair a théann muid chuca le smaoinemh, biodh sé Seoidín, na malai draíochta, nó ar ndóigh dvd na scoile.

Bhí an chéad chéim tógtha nuair a bhí an leabhairín curtha i gcló, ach is rud eile ar fad e paistí a chur á léamh. Mar sin ar an gCéadaoin 18ú Samhain tugadh cuireadh do chéad caoga páiste bun scoile as ranganna a cúig agus a sé ó cheithre bhunscoil in abhantracht na scoile teacht chuig ceardlann léitheoireachta i gColaiste Chroí Mhuire.

Mar chuid den cheardlann léadh dhá cheann de na scealta, rinne daltaí na meanscoile aisteoireacht as ceann de na scéalta, léigh Joe Steve Ó Neachtain (aisteoir, file agus scríbhneoir) a scéal, agus rinne na daltaí bun scoile cumadóireacht dá gcuid féin. Bhí sé go halainn na paistí a fheiceáil ag léamh na scéalta, ag éisteach le Joe Steve, agus iad faoi dhraíocht aige, ag gáire le daltaí na meanscoile, agus ag canadh le rac-ghrúpa na scoile.

Fuair muid cúnaimh ó Chomhairle Chondae na Gaillimhe, agus ó Ghaelscoileanna leis an seó a chur ar siúl, agus táimid thar a bheith buíoch díobh dá bharr. Bhí lá iontach againn ar fad agus muid faoi stiúir Bróna Ní Uallacháin a d'eagraigh an lá, an aisteoireacht, a scríobh an script don lá, agus a rinne cinnte de gur oibrigh gach rud de reir an phlean.

Ansin, ar an déardaoin an 19ú Samhain, sheol na daoine fásta an leabhar sa Chrúiscin Lán sa Spidéal. In aineoinn na haimsire, a bhí go hainnis, bhí oíche álainn againn. Labhair an príomhoide, ar feadh cúpla nóiméad, agus ansin labhair Páid Ó Neachtain, Oifigeach le Gaeilge Chomhairle Chondae na Gaillimhe, agus Príomhfhéimeannach Údaras na Gaeltachta, Pádraig Ó Maoláin.

Thug said an-mholadh don togra, agus ba léir go raibh focail molta Pháid agus Phadraig ag dul i gion go mór ar a raibh i láthair. D'áirigh muid uainn Eibhlín Ní Shúilleabháin a chuir Seoidín le chéile, agus na daoine nach raibh in ann a bheith linn de bharr na haimsire, ach bhí ócáid deas againn i dteannta a chéile.

Tríona Uí Murchú.
Príomhoide.

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Enhancing Continuous Professional Development/Developing Leadership

Thursday 12th November 2009

As a result of dialogue with our schools, we are made aware that leadership development of all school personnel is one of the on-going needs of CEIST schools. In responding to this need, CEIST in association with the LDS & SDPI, wishes to provide an opportunity for teachers in CEIST schools to develop their potential leadership qualities. It is in the interest of schools in our Trusteeship that these qualities are given practical expression in the current school environment and for future assurance of leaders of high quality.



Pictured above at the course session held in the CEIST Education Office recently are School Principals (LtoR) Margaret Maher (Mercy Drimnagh), Audrey Doyle (St Joseph's Lucan), P. J. Gannon (Scoil Dara, Kilcock), Marie Therese Kilmartin (Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin), Margaret O'Brien (CEIST), Michael Lane (CEIST), Peter McCarney (Presentation Warrenmount), Treasa Leahy (Mercy Inchicore), Adrienne Whelan (Caritas College Ballyfermot) and Denise Burns (Sancta Maria, Ballyroan).

It is expected that in this modest way, applicants for leadership posts will be encouraged and feel confident to test their theories in practice and contribute to the innovative culture inherent in CEIST schools. The Pilot Project also hopes to build on the sense of community of CEIST schools by bringing together eight CEIST schools of varying traditions, student population and social context to share their experience of lived CEIST Charter values.

Each participant will be expected to keep a Journal of their reflective practice which will develop over the duration of the course and be shared with other participants. Three sessions will be held in different school locations and the fourth will be located in the CEIST Education Office. It is intended to provide a Certificate of Participation from CEIST to all who successfully complete the course.

This Pilot Project will be evaluated at the end of each session by the participants and the organisers. We hope that it will provide support for teachers to achieve further development and personal enrichment in their professional lives.



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Presentation Secondary School Clonmel Annual School Show

Thursday 12th November 2009

The High School and Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel presented "Disco Inferno" as their annual school show in St. Joseph's, Ferryhouse, Clonmel on Friday and Saturday 23rd & 24th October. This joint schools project has been running for 33 years. There was no doubt that we were treated to another excellent production.

The show provided a great night of entertainment as the boys and girls of High School Clonmel and Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel performed to their normal high standards.

This is the first time that the schools produced 'Disco Inferno'. The show was based around the summer of 1976... it's as hot outside as the fashion, hits and passion are on the dance floor and Jack (Steven Lafford) is about to celebrate a 21st birthday that he will never forget in this fantastic new 70's Musical Comedy. The story follows Jack's ambition to be a superstar.

Of course, there were many twists and turns involving such characters as devilish Lady Marmalade (Katie O'Brien), Jack's friends, geeky Tom (Philip Hannigan) and club DJ, Terry, (Conal Guilfoyle), Jack's girlfriend, Jane (Lucy Fitzgerald), club owner, ageing rocker Duke (David O'Callaghan), Heathcliffe (Eran Hickey), record publicist, Nick Diablo (Brian Condon), Lily (Luke Fennell), Kathy (Therese Gregory) and Maggie (Zoe Brannigan).

Keith Greene and Lisa O'Brien were the directors of the show, with Siobhan Alley and Olga Gannon as musical directors. The choreographer was Shannon Cairns, a fifth year in the Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel.

Keith Greene, one of the co-directors, was delighted with the response from the students to the production. He said "that the boys and girls from both schools are a very dedicated group, they have worked very hard since late August and they produced a show that is very energetic and entertaining".

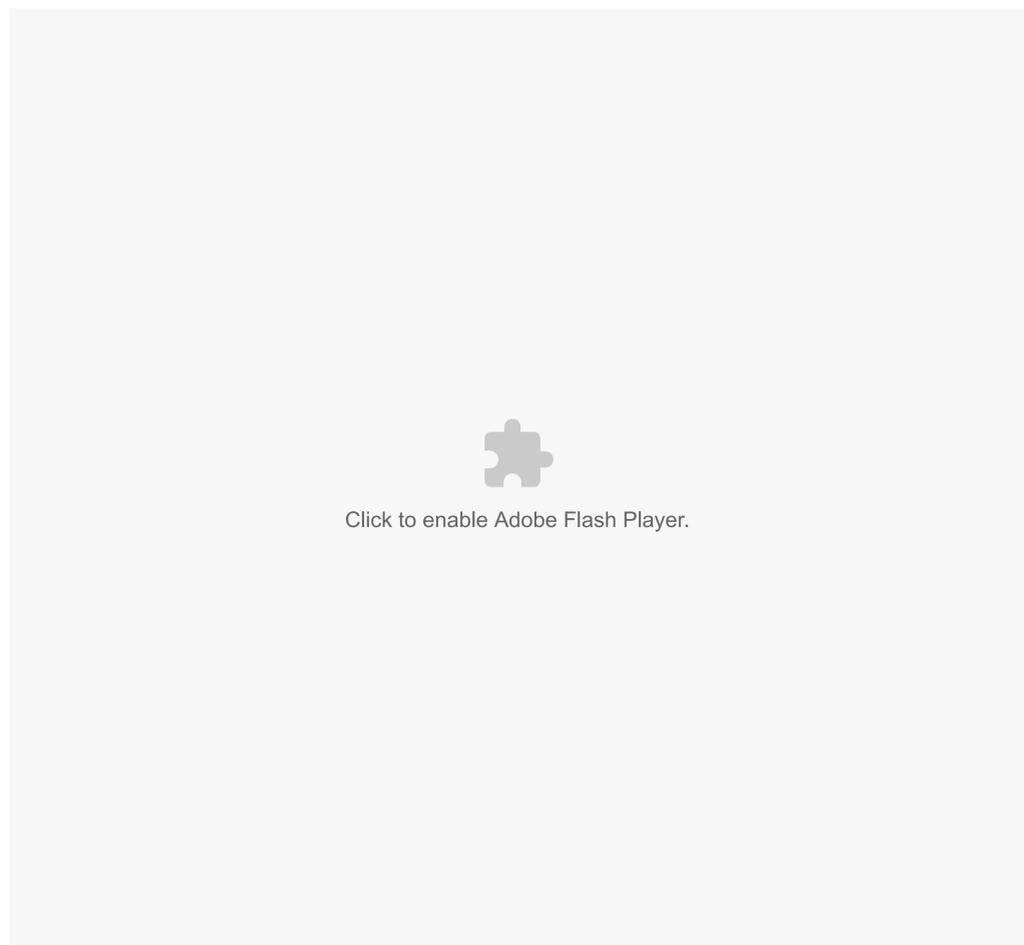
Congratulations to all involved in the highly successful Disco Inferno. It was absolutely brilliant and the standing ovations on both nights were so well deserved.

The show played to packed audiences on the Friday and Saturday nights at St. Josephs Ferryhouse.

Many thanks to all students, staff and parents who gave the enormous support needed to make the show such a huge success. Especially, congrats to Ms. Siobhan Alley, Ms. Lisa O'Brien and Mr. Keith Greene for all their hard work.

Not forgetting the cast and backstage crew for their commitment and dedication to the show.

Photo Album





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Presentation Secondary School Galway Celebrates Presentation Day

Wednesday 25th November 2009

Presentation Secondary School, Galway, Presentation Day Celebrations began with a Mass in St. Joseph's Church for the school community of students, all of their staff & parents together with Sisters from the Presentation Convent.

The school were joined by the 'younger' members of our Presentation family namely, their two Primary Schools, Scoil Bhríde, Shantalla and Scoil Chroí Íosa, Newcastle Road.



Pictured above Back: Séamus McGuinness & Laura Coughlan, Musicians and Cliona Ní Néill, Principal.
Left to Right Back Row: Sr. Joan Bland, Sr. Gertrude Shorthall, Sr. Gabriel Freaney, Sr. Margaret Curry, Sr. Regina (a guest from Cork) and Sr. Kathleen Fahy.
Front row left to right: Sr. Clare Hogan, Sr. Maura McNeilus, Sr. Angela Murphy, Sr. Alphonsus O'Malley, Sr. Bríd Leonard and Sr. Helen Hyland.

School Support

St Joseph's Secondary School, Castlebar

St. Joseph's Secondary School, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, have kindly shared with us information about the school along with recent news and events.



St. Joseph's is an all girls secondary school in Castlebar, Co. Mayo on the west coast of Ireland. Our school was founded by the Sisters of Mercy and is situated in Lord Lucan's former grounds. Located on attractive, extensive grounds, it is within walking distance from the centre of Castlebar, one of Irelands fastest growing towns.

Mission Statement

- St. Joseph's is a Catholic Secondary School for girls. We aim to provide a holistic Christian Education in co-operation with teachers, students, parents, management and the community.
- We work to create equality for all in an atmosphere of mutual respect .
- We strive for excellence in learning and endeavour to help each student to reach her full potential in a positive, caring and happy environment.

Principal's Greeting

St. Joseph's Secondary School, Castlebar is a voluntary Catholic Secondary School for girls under the trusteeship of CEIST. Our aim is to give our students a good Christian training and to develop their full potential as citizens of the future.

I Meánscoil Naomh Iosaef is i an aidhm atá ag an bhfoireann oibre ná chuille ghné de phearsantacht agus d'fhorbairt an scoláire a mhúscailt agus a chothú. Cuirtear béim mhór ar acadúlacht, ar obair dhian, dhícheallach, agus ar chúram na scoláirí. Spreagtar gach scoláire sa chaol 's gur féidir léi a cumas speisialta, nádúrtha féin a thabhairt chun críche trí mheán an oideachais. Saothraíonn an fhoireann oibre agus scoláirí as lámha a chéile in atmasféar na cineáltachta agus na Críostaíochta.

Each teacher promotes and fosters pastoral care in an informal manner in her/his own classroom. Teachers are appointed to undertake the formal role of Year Head and Year Group Advisor for each Year Group. We believe that true education embraces the whole person and therefore our objectives are to develop the academic, spiritual, emotional, social, physical and moral well-being of our students.

In St. Joseph's we aim to equip our students with skills, competencies and self-esteem in a rewarding learning environment. Our dedicated and hardworking staff endeavour to offer an education of breadth and balance for each student.

Beir bua agus beannacht,
Áine Bn. Uí Mhóráin

THE WIZARD OF OZ - Transition Year Musical

On Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th November the transition Year students of St Joseph's Secondary School, Castlebar staged their musical production of the 'Wizard of Oz', in the Royal Theatre Castlebar. The Transition Year students put in full scale rehearsals over the past few weeks and were very excited about performing in such a fine theatre as the Royal Theatre Castlebar, which has to be one of the best venues for a theatrical performance outside the West End.

The 'Wizard of Oz', the musical is based on a 1900's children's fantasy novel, 'The wonderful Wizard of Oz', by Frank L. Baum and it tells the story of a 12 year old girl called Dorothy who lives on a Kansas farm with her Aunt Em ,Uncle Henry and dog Toto. Dorothy dreams of a better place, which is 'somewhere over the rainbow'.

One day, she is 'kidnapped', by a twister and set down in the land of the Munchkins where she meets up with the Scarecrow, the Tinman and the Lion. Together they set off to find the Wizard in the Emerald City of Oz.

The shows memorable songs include, 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow', 'Ding Dong the Witch is Dead', 'Follow the Yellow Brick Road', and 'We're off to see the Wizard'.

The show's musical director is Ms. Deirdre Lee and is produced and directed by Ms. Marianne Jordan with choreography by Ms. Hazel McLynn. The main cast include: Emma Daly (Dorothy), Michelle Grealis (Scarecrow), Kate Murphy (Tinman), Alice Corley (the Lion), Amy Ahmed (the Wicked Witch), Anna Mannion (Aunt Em), Áine Tierney (Uncle Henry), Amy Lawless (Zeke), Rebecca O'Callaghan (the Wizard) Sarah Breen (Hickory), Grace Leonard (Hunk), Rachel Mulchrone (Glinda), Katie Kenny (Emerald city Guard) and Dearbhla Jordan (Winkie General).

The set has been designed and created by the school's Art Department under the expertise of Ms. Geary and very ably assisted by a very dedicated team of Transition Art students. Ms. Miriam McDermott is the creative force behind costumes and Mr. Tim Ryan is the shows technical advisor and lighting expert.

The show will be supported by the school orchestra under the baton of Ms. Deirdre Lee and assisted by Sean Bourke, Mick Buckton and Joe O'Grady. The show promises to delight and entertain its audience both young and old.

Click [here](#) to view school photos taken of preparation for the Wizard of Oz show.

Around the school Photo Gallery

Click [here](#) to view pictures from around the school.

School Chaplain

We welcome to our school our new chaplain Fr. John Murray who has joined us in September 2009. As School Chaplain, he is available to assist with faith formation, school liturgical events and to provide support for students and for the spiritual wellbeing of the school community.

We extend a sincere thank you to our former School Chaplain, Fr. Michael Murphy, who for the past 10 years contributed greatly to the academic, pastoral and sporting life at St. Joseph's. We wish him great success and happiness in his new post. His contribution to our school will long be remembered by staff and students alike.

The Student Council

The Student Council is made up of two student representatives from each year group. It was set up to represent the student body. Student Council meetings are held on a regular basis. Matters of interest to the students and any ideas or suggestions that have been brought to student council members' attention can be discussed.

Students are kept up to date on progress and events on our special Student Council Notice Board and submissions from students are welcome at any time, to our "Suggestions Box " - right underneath the notice board!

The student's councils have organised a number of fundraising activities for various events and have worked to promote our "Green School".

The "Millenium Project" was one of the initial projects undertaken by one of our first ever student councils. Our Environmental Friendly - "The Millenium Tree Planting Project" hopefully will continue to bear its fruits for many years to come. On the school grounds, a tree was planted to mark each of our year groups. Some of those trees served to replace what was lost in storm just prior to this. This was a great success.

Senior Prefects

At the beginning of the academic year 2006/07 the school decided to establish a Senior Prefect Team. Leaving Certificate Students and Staff elected this Team.

The role of the Senior Prefect Team is to promote leadership and to represent our school on official occasions.

Two students from the Senior Prefect Team are appointed as Head Girls. The role of the Senior Prefect Team will further develop within our school community.

St. Joseph's - A Green School

The School Community of St. Joseph's Secondary School aims to care for and protect our environment and to preserve it for future generations.



Having been awarded the green flag for our work on waste management, recycling and energy conservation, and water conservation we have completed the 4th phase of the green schools programme and have been awarded four green flags.

Currently for school year 2009/2010, we are working on the theme of Travel. We are encouraging more students and staff to walk or cycle to school and reduce the number of cars on our roads.

We practice the Green Code Reduce, Reuse and Recycle and we continue to conserve energy.

Our Big Win 2009 - All Ireland Final

St Joseph's Castlebar won the All-Ireland Ladies Gaelic Football title in 2009, defeating another CEIST school in the final, Ard Scoil Na Deise of Waterford.



Pictured above are the St. Joseph's Secondary School Gaelic Football team who won the All-Ireland Ladies Championship in 2009.

News/Nuacht

- Congratulations to Róisín Rice who was the winner of John Healy Memorial Prize for essay "A hero in my community".
- Credit Union National Poster Competition 2009/2010 - Congratulations to our winners, 14-17 years category, 1st place - Laura Ryder (2nd year), 2nd place - Michelle Hopkins (6th year), 11-13 years category, Róisín Rice (1st year). Best of luck to Laura whose entry proceeds to the next "chapter level.
- "Psychospaghetti" - giving an insight into the teenage mind, was enjoyed by Transition Year at the Linenhall, Wednesday 18th Nov.
- "Travel" is this years theme for Our Green Schools Committee who are working towards the schools 4th Green Flag.
- Congratulations to Stephanie Cassoll Leaving Cert. 2009, on being awarded entrance scholarship to UCG, Special ceremony - Thursday 15th Oct. in UCG.
- Congratulations to Aoife Bell, Leaving Cert. student - presented with Intel Award of Excellence for her Science project entry.
- Congratulations to Ellen Cahill, St. Joseph's Leaving Cert 2009 student, who was presented with the Naughton Award and €1000 for the school Science laboratory, Well done Ellen and best wishes in your studies.
- Supervised After School study commenced 14th Sept - which is available to all students.

Click [here](#) to view the CEIST website school page on St. Joseph's Secondary School Castlebar, which contains their Mission Statement, School History and Contact Details.



News & Events

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Social Inclusion Competition for 2nd Level Schools

Thursday 12th November 2009

A competition is run by South Dublin County Council for secondary schools in South Dublin with the following objectives;

- To raise awareness and enhance understanding of poverty and inequality amongst the 2nd level Students in the South Dublin County.
- To Develop skills, knowledge and values through a positive educational experience.
- To provide opportunities for practical learning experiences.
- To deepen their knowledge and engage in action based learning.
- To create participation and awareness of Active Citizenship within their community.

Students from Leaving Certificate Applied, Transition Year and 3rd year Civic, Social and Political Education work on a project and are encouraged to be innovative and creative in their choice of topics. The project may be submitted by individual or group.

The competition was won last year by CEIST school, Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin (pictured below) with their project on Homelessness.





Faith Development

Where 2 + 2 = 5

This resource consists of a Documentary Film Where 2 + 2 = 5, produced by Esperanza Productions, that tells the story of the life of Irish priest Fr. Pat Clarke and his work in Sao Paolo.



'Where 2 + 2 = 5 is a film about something that should be impossible! Children with no formal education, exposed to drug gangs and violence, in a sprawling favela or shanty town in Sao Paolo, prove the power of the arts against all of the odds.

Held at gun point by a ten year old boy Fr. Pat was moved to do something for children who often risked meeting an early death as a drug gang member. Today the Centro Cultural he helped create is a dynamic heart of a community and run by the people of the favela.

This documentary offers unique testimony about the difference the arts can make, when someone unleashes their extraordinary power to help others.

This documentary film resource is accompanied by a lesson plan for teachers of R.E., Geography, and Development Education to assist in making this great story accessible educationally to our CEIST students.

The Faith Development Co-ordinators are bringing the DVD personally on school visits. The DVD is provided to CEIST free of charge courtesy of Esperanza Productions.

Click on the link below to download lesson plan.

[Where 2 + 2 = 5 Lesson Plan](#)



Working towards

A

Faith Development Policy

“Faith is not simply the subject matter of particular lessons but forms the foundation of all that we do and the horizon of all that takes place in the school.”

(Vision '08)



Why should CEIST Schools formulate a Faith Development Policy?

Department of Education Guidelines state that:

“A policy statement is a resource and a support for schools in dealing with difficult situations” and that “written policy serves as a reference point for pupils, parents and teachers. It promotes harmony by clarifying procedures, expectations and roles”.

www.sdpi.ie/guidelines/Unit0403.html

In the current climate Catholic schools are facing unprecedented opposition with calls from some quarters for the current system of education to be replaced by a totally state run system. However, it is the case that, as the prime educators of their children, parents must be afforded the fundamental right to send their children to denominational schools. Furthermore, research has shown that in spite of serious changes in society’s attitudes towards religious practice, the vast majority of parents in Ireland wish to have the choice of sending their children to Catholic schools. CEIST school communities, therefore, must be very clear with regard to their Catholic Ethos; to the purpose of their existence; and to their commitment to continuing Catholic Education in each of the congregational traditions into the future.

Parents have the primary responsibility for nurturing faith in their children and the school supports parents in this by providing not only an excellent academic education but also a high quality Religious Education programme for its students. However, while an R.E. policy gives consistency and continuity to the Religious Education programme in a school, in order to put the identity and ethos of the school into practice it is also necessary to acknowledge that Faith Development involves more than the R. E. programme for students. Faith Development is a process through which a faith community deepens its Christian life; it involves information, formation and leads to fundamental transformation.

The CEIST Charter, which is rooted in the rich tradition of the founding congregations, underpins all that happens in each of our schools. Gospel values permeate the life of the school, and the whole school community witnesses to a living faith based on a firm relationship with Jesus Christ. The Catholic ethos of the school and the characteristic spirit of the congregation which established it are enshrined in the Mission Statement.

In order to ensure clarity of thinking, and a deep understanding of the faith dimension of the school’s purpose, it is hoped that the attached guidelines will help each CEIST school community to draw up and implement its own Faith Development Policy. Many schools will wish to develop their Religious Education Policy as part of their Faith Development Policy. Others may wish to produce two separate documents – one concerned solely with R. E. and the other a separate statement of the school’s ethos and practice.

It is up to each school to adopt the option most suitable to their own situation. We would also suggest that those schools which have already drawn up their R.E./Faith

Development Policies would take this opportunity to review them in the light of these guidelines.

The following is a framework for drafting a school's Faith Development Policy. The wording given is formulated as an example of how a Faith Development Policy might be approached. Each school will have its own points to include and develop, particularly in the "Contents" section.

With regard to drawing up a Faith Development Policy it is vital to remember that while the Religion Team will be central to the formulation of the section on Religious Education, and key in the overall preparation of the document; this policy requires the involvement of the whole school community. It is therefore essential that the group entrusted with the task of bringing this policy forward comprises membership from various departments within the school.

An outline for the time-frame which will facilitate planning can be found on p.10.

What is Catholic Education?

Catholic Education is a lifelong process of human growth and development. It is more than schooling. It begins in the home, continues in the school and matures through involvement with the Christian community in the parish. These three dimensions of home, school and parish must work together if Catholic education is to truly attain its goal of forming mature human persons in the image and likeness of Christ.

CEIST Charter p.6.

Catholic education promotes the development of the whole person based on the belief that the human and the divine are inseparable. It promotes an explicit system of values based on the Gospels. The goal of Catholic education is the formation of the student. Catholic education prepares people not merely for the world of work but for the challenges of life. It provides learning experiences for students and teachers that will develop their capacity to think critically. It helps them to be fully human and fully alive. Catholic schools are open and welcoming to all cultures and traditions and care especially for the poor and those who are disadvantaged.

CEIST Website.

Catholic Education aims to help each student to develop his or her full potential as a human being. It will do so by preparing and disposing our pupils for this fullness of life, by enabling them to be people who are fully alive. Education means the development of the whole person. An education which makes no room to address the fundamental questions about the meaning of life could not be described as seeking such holistic development. By educating students in their every dimension according to the Gospel, Catholic schools seek to transform not only the individual human lives of our pupils, but also, through them, the society which they will help to build.

Vision '08

The Catholic School pursues cultural goals and the natural development of youth to the same degree as any other school but what makes the Catholic School distinctive in its efforts to do this is the specifically religious dimension which is revealed in 1) the climate of the school community, 2) its specifically Christian vision of personality development, 3) the relationship fostered between Gospel and culture and 4) the extent to which a faith perspective is integrated with all knowledge, as the school community undertakes its task.

Gravissimum Educationis (para. 8)

Faith development is central to Catholic education.

NAME OF SCHOOL

FAITH DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Mission Statement

_____ is a Catholic school (in the _____ tradition) *or* (founded by the sisters of _____) under the trusteeship of CEIST.....

(informed by the :

CEIST Charter;

- Mission: To provide a holistic education in the Catholic tradition.
- Vision: A compassionate and just society inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.)

And the Congregational Philosophy of Education.)

Introduction

A Catholic school, of its very nature, exists as a faith community and faith development is a process through which this community deepens its Christian life. Spiritual and moral development cannot be relegated to the realm of Religious Education only but are nurtured by the whole curriculum. Each member of the school community has a responsibility to live in a way that witnesses to the Gospel so that faith permeates all aspects of our school life.

“Faith is not simply the subject matter of particular lessons but forms the foundation of all that we do and the horizon of all that takes place in the school”.

Vision '08

Scope of the Policy:

This policy will impact on students, staff, parents and the local parish, as we strive to create a faith community in which Gospel values ensure a culture of good relationships, sensitive to the needs of each person and to the common good. Faith formation is the responsibility of the whole school community

Aims:

- To contribute to the religious formation and faith development of our students and to their spiritual and moral development.
- To encourage all members of the school community in their search for truth and in seeking answers to the fundamental questions about the meaning of life.
(Ref: *Vision '08 p.2*)
- To nourish the life of students, staff and parents as they work together for the common good, respecting each other's rights and the carrying out responsibilities in a manner which promotes the spiritual development of each person, achieves quality in teaching and learning, creates a sense of community and is founded on compassion and justice.
(Ref: *CEIST Charter p.12*)
- To allow each member of the school community to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ which will give meaning and purpose to their lives.
(Ref: *CEIST Charter p.12*)

Rationale

The rationale of the Faith Formation Policy /Religious Education Policy of *(Name the school)* is based on the **CEIST** Charter and on the characteristic spirit of *(Name the founder)* and the educational philosophy of *(Name the religious congregation)*

This policy will articulate this school's commitment to its Catholic ethos and to the religious and moral development of our students. It will ensure that in striving to achieve academic excellence, this school will also provide holistic education and spiritual formation that each student may learn to live in solidarity with other persons in search of the common good.

Goals:

- To promote awareness of the reality that faith formation belongs to the whole school community.
- To support and encourage parents in exercising their responsibility for their child's spiritual growth and faith formation in partnership with the school and their parish communities.
- To develop a sense of the presence of God in the lives of our students.
- To provide the framework for a school faith community which will enable its students to become catalysts for social transformation.

Relationship to Admissions Policy

In line with its admission policy and the Catholic ethos of the school, this school is open and accessible to all without discrimination.

Children of all faiths (or of no faith) are welcome to this school.

Each child is welcome to attend and benefit from the religious education programme of the school.

Relationship to other policies

All policies are informed by the school's Catholic / CEIST values. However, other policies which particularly reflect the school's Catholic ethos and its faith in action will include the school's Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying Policy, Child Protection Policy, S.P.H.E. Policy, R.S.E. Policy etc.

Roles and responsibilities

It is essential that all members of the school community commit to the implementation and practice of the Faith Development Policy:

*(In each of the following it is recommended that two suggestions be included as to **how** the responsibilities will be fulfilled)*

- | | |
|--|---|
| Board of Management | – To commit to, to promote and to support the Catholic ethos of the school
- To proactively initiate the drafting of a Faith Development Policy and to encourage its progress
- To approve the policy and ensure its implementation |
| Principal and Deputy Principal | - To ensure the procedures of the policy and work, towards its effective implementation. |
| All School Staff | - It is vital that all staff members understand the values underpinning Catholic education and that they subscribe to engaging in the implementation and cultivation of a culture of faith in the life of the school. |
| Teachers of Religious Education & Chaplain | - Formation will happen through formal programmes – but a Faith Development policy will ensure whole school support for the R.E. team in promoting the liturgical and sacramental life of the school. |

- Pastoral Care Team - Pastoral Care is at the heart of the Catholic school. The support and guidance given to students by the pastoral care team will be informed by the culture of faith which permeates the school.
- Parents and Guardians - To accept responsibility as the primary religious educators of their children.
- While understanding that the Catholic ethos of the school is respectful of, and open to, students of all faith traditions and none, parents must be prepared to acknowledge and support the Catholic ethos of the school.
- Students - will participate in the R.E. programme, undertake to live the values of the CEIST Charter to the best of their ability and endeavour to become involved in the liturgical celebrations and various social justice programmes undertaken by the school.

N.B.

Catholic schools have an obligation to provide Catholic students with an education and formation in the Catholic faith. There is also a long tradition of welcoming students of other faiths and facilitating, where possible, their spiritual and moral growth. However there is no obligation to provide students from other faith traditions with formation in their own faith.

The inspectorate is particularly interested in the ways in which Catholic schools are developing strategies for inclusion, therefore it is vitally important that the manner in which the school extends its welcome is clearly stated in this policy,

Policy Document

Content: A Faith Development Policy should include the following:

- Visibly Catholic – What tells visitors that our school is Catholic?
- Welcoming, inclusive community – Who welcomes? How are we inclusive?
In what ways do we actively support students who are educationally disadvantaged or who have special needs? How do we celebrate people of other faith traditions and none?
- Communication with parents / guardians – how is question of ethos communicated?
- Staff – commitment to supporting ethos / induction of new staff
- In-service – spiritual renewal for all staff

- Students - experience of faith community
- Facilities - prayer room / sacred space
- The Liturgical Year / Calendar
- Liturgies - whole school participation;
 - use of appropriate readings, music, symbols, artwork.
- Retreats - support from whole staff for student retreats
 - provision of retreats for staff
- Prayer – culture of prayer
- Cross-curricular links
- Ethos Team

Central to our Faith Development Policy is:

➤ **Religious Education.**

“Catholic schools commit resources and time to Religious Education as a priority”
(Vision '08)

- The Specific aims of Religious Education
- The R.E. Programme for each year group
- Number of class periods allocated
- Assessment techniques
- Planning for R.E.
- Catechists & Chaplain
- Facilities and resources
- Retreats
- In-service
- Prayer
- Liturgy
- Social awareness and justice projects
- Links with Parish
- Cultural diversity – Students of other faiths and none are welcome to attend R.E. classes. In a case where parents of a student from a non-Christian tradition wish them to be exempt from such attendance alternative arrangements must be made in agreement with school management.

Success Criteria

- How is the Liturgical Year celebrated / highlighted?
- Is the school visually Catholic? What are the first impressions given to visitors?
- How is a culture of prayer encouraged in the school? In what ways is it evident?

- What opportunities for spiritual renewal are provided for students? For staff?
- Is the school Prayer Room open and accessible to students/staff and is it well used?
- Can students articulate a sense of the presence of God in their lives?
- What Faith in Action projects are undertaken by the school? Are students/staff/parents/parish community aware of these justice projects and how are they highlighted?

Monitoring Evaluation and Review

The Faith Development Policy underpins the *raison d’etre* of this school, and therefore its implementation and ongoing effectiveness will require constant monitoring. Thus a scheme of regular evaluation and review must be adhered to.

- At the end of each year the R.E. Department to evaluate the policy from their perspective as a team.
- Every third year a whole staff review of the policy to ensure that the ethos is indeed being effectively carried into the future by the whole school community.
- Every fifth year a whole school review to take place with the inclusion of all the partners – Management, Staff, Students, Parents and, where possible, Parish representatives..

Time frame

1) Initial review by staff

Specify Faith Development Policy.

Decide if it is to include R.E.

Establish structure to advance process of policy formation:

Task Group (Ethos Team) to be established and

Policy Co-ordinator decided. Date _____

2) Development by Task Group

Establish Rationale

Research /consultation with all partners – Staff,
 Students (SRC)
 Parents (Parents’ Council)

Provisions of policy

Preparation of Draft Policy

Bring to Staff Date _____

Review by Board of Management Date _____

3) Evaluate and revise Draft
Present revised Draft to Staff Date _____

4) Amend if necessary
Communicate Draft policy to Board of Management, pupils (SRC) and parents (Parents Council) for review.
Date _____

Present to Board of Management for ratification. Date _____

After ratification

- **Communicate the agreed policy to all interested parties.**
- **Ongoing review as per policy.**

The R.E. Policy may be developed as a separate Policy – in which case its framework must also include:

- Name of the Policy
- Mission statement
- Scope of the Policy
- Rationale for the Policy (Which will include its relationship to the Faith Development Policy)
- Goals/objectives of the Policy
- The Roles and Responsibilities of all who are involved in developing, implementing, monitoring and reviewing the Policy
- Policy Content (as outlined above)
- Specification of success criteria
- How it is to be monitored and reviewed
- Time frame for review to be specified

.....
Note:

Equality proofing

The Education Act 1998 requires that the school address issues of equality of access and participation, Concern for equality is fundamental to the basic philosophy of all CEIST schools and permeates all aspects of school policy and planning.

While this entails adopting forms of consultation that encourage and support participation by minority groups, it must also be remembered that fair application of all policies requires accommodation of students of other denominations and faiths only in so far as their needs do not impinge on the ethos of the school.

Policy Guideline Documents for Reference

CEIST Charter

Vision '08 – A Vision for Catholic Education in Ireland, Irish Catholic Bishop's Conference 2008

SDPI guidelines - www.sdpi.ie/guidelines/Unit0840.html
- www.sdpi.ie/guidelines/Unit0601.html
- www.sdpi.ie/guidelines/Unit0403.html

Noel Keating - Sample Faith Development Policy 2006

Guidelines from Mercy Trustees in Respect of Policy on Religious Education and Faith Formation - January 2001

Faith Development in Catholic Schools – “Be Good News”: Draft National Directory for Catechesis: Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

Towards a Policy on R.E. – The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

An Tobar – Towards a Policy on RE in Post-Primary schools / Guidelines towards a policy for the inclusion of students of different faiths 2006

The Induction Process in the Catholic School CEC (The Education Agency of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales) 1999