

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

#### Time out for Reflection!

During the opening days of Holy Week 2010, CEIST is arranging retreats for our principals and teachers at four regional locations:

- Grace Dieu Retreat House, Waterford
- Tearmann, Fr. Michael Rogers' retreat house in Glendalough.
- Nano Nagle Centre, Ballygriffin.
- Ballintubber Abbey, Co. Mayo.



The retreats will begin on the evening of Palm Sunday – April 28th 2010 and continue until mid-day Tuesday April 30th.

The cost of the retreat will be approx €150.00 per person.

For further information or to reserve a place contact [Ned Prendergast](#) by Friday 12th February on 01-6510350.

[MORE >](#)

### CEIST News



#### R.E. Teachers Cluster Meeting

CEIST and the Dublin Diocese RE have arranged a Cluster Meeting on 25th February in Maynooth Post Primary School from 4.30pm – 6pm.

This is a great opportunity for RE teachers to meet with fellow practitioners in the field of catechetics and Religious Education.

The cluster works on a 'Peer In-service' model. Teachers attending are invited to bring a sample of their work to share with others. CEIST schools with an interest in attending this cluster can contact [Lloyd Bracken](#).



#### School Annual Accounts 2008-2009

Thank you to all our schools who have submitted their annual accounts for the 2008-2009 school year.

For those schools who are still outstanding with their school accounts we are requesting that you submit the accounts immediately to the Trustees for review and approval.

Time is of the essence if school Boards of Management are to fulfill their obligations under the Articles of Management For Catholic Secondary Schools. The deadline for receipt of school accounts by the F.S.S.U. is the end of February once they have been approved by the Trustees.

If you are experiencing difficulties in meeting the deadline, please contact either Mike or Bernadette in the CEIST office who may be able to assist. Mike (01)6510414 Bernadette (01)6510423.



#### Young Scientists Exhibition 2010

As in previous years CEIST schools were very well represented and in receipt of awards and commendations at the 2010 Young Scientists Exhibition earlier this month.

We extend our congratulations to all the pupils, teachers and parents on their wonderful achievements and for representing our schools so proudly in this annual event.

[MORE >](#)

#### Leading Schools in the Face of Complexity and Change in Ireland

The School of Education department, Trinity College, Dublin, in association with Cambridge Leadership Associates (CLA) are running a two day workshop, led by Marty Linsky, Harvard Kennedy School, on 22-23, March 2010.

It is hoped that this workshop will offer a wonderful opportunity for those who lead and manage Irish education to explore together some of the issues that challenge us in a constructive and solution focused framework.

Click [here](#) to view further information and booking form.

#### New Interactive Digital Bible

Click [here](#) to view from the Kandle website a video report on the G10 interactive Bible, which is a digital media platform with HD video and documentaries, high-resolution images, zoomable maps, 360-degree virtual tours.

#### CEISI Conference

The Computer Education Society of Ireland are holding their Annual Conference on the 5th and 6th February.

Click [here](#) for more details.

### Education Matters



#### Presentation College, Askea, Carlow Comenius Programme

Presentation Askea is the only school in Ireland to be accepted onto the Comenius Programme, which involves ten European countries in total.

Comenius seeks to develop knowledge and understanding, among teachers and students, of the diversity of European cultures, languages and values.

[MORE >](#)



#### Continuous Professional Development- Multiple Intelligences Seminar

The Second Level Support Service have announced details of their forthcoming Cooperative Learning conferences in association with Professors David and Roger Johnson of the Cooperative Learning Centre, University of Minnesota, USA.

As you may be aware, Cooperative Learning explores methods that empower students of all abilities and learning styles to make significant progress.

Research results have indicated that cooperative learning experiences promote higher academic achievement, positive student self esteem, increased attendance at schools and positive student behaviour.

Click on more link below for further details and to download application forms.

[MORE >](#)



#### St. Leo's College Carlow Welcome Visit of Top Educationalist

An excellent lecture was delivered to staff of St. Leo's College on Friday by Dr. Emer Smyth of the ESRI.

Dr. Smyth has gained an excellent reputation in the area of education research. She has published a number of notable papers in the area of secondary education.

These include Do school differ? Academic and personal development among pupils in the second-level sector and also Moving up: the experiences of first year students in post-primary education.

[MORE >](#)

### Faith-related Issues



#### NCCA Colloquium on the JCRE

The NCCA Colloquium on the JCRE was held in the Kilkenny Education Centre on December 14th 2009.

Three presentations were made, namely, The Affective in the JCRE; The Impact of JCRE on four students from Presentation Kilkenny; and lastly, the Multi-faith context of our schools.

Four Students from Presentation Loughboy, Kilkenny were honoured to be allowed participate in the forum and the following is an account of their experience from Eimear Connick who was one of four students representing her school.

[MORE >](#)

### News from CEIST Schools



#### Profile on Presentation College, Currylea, Tuam

Our School Feature for the Month of January was from Presentation College, Currylea, Tuam, who kindly shared information about the school along with recent news and events.

The School Profile for February will be from Sacred Heart Secondary School, Drogheda.

[MORE >](#)



#### News from Eureka Secondary School, Kells

Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath have kindly shared information on recent Student achievement of "Youth Sports Person of the Year Award" and of their FAIRTRADE launch.

[MORE >](#)



#### Our Lady Of Mercy Secondary School, Drimnagh Newsletter

Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Mourne Road, Drimnagh, have shared with us their excellent Newsletter for January.

Click [here](#) to download.



#### A Little Bit of Presentation Secondary School Wexford in Africa!

A very special congratulations and thank you to First Year class 1A2 in Presentation Secondary School, Wexford, who were involved in a very successful project in November.

The class collected and donated gifts of pens, pencils and colouring equipment which were given to the children in a Shanty Town in Capetown, South Africa.

[MORE >](#)



#### News from Calsanctius College, Oranmore

Calsanctious College, Oranmore, Co. Galway publish an excellent school newsletter each month.

Click [here](#) to view their December 2009 newsletter.



#### Presentation Secondary Galway Fundraising Efforts

Congratulations to Presentation Secondary School, Galway on their recent fundraising events.

The school raised funds for Haiti and for the Presentation Pakistan Mission.

[MORE >](#)

### Reviews



#### Our Lady's Secondary School, Belmullet Retreat

CEIST Faith Development Co-ordinators Antonya Hanly and Lloyd Bracken facilitated a Sixth Year Retreat for students in Our Lady's Secondary School, Belmullet recently. Retreats can be a very special and memorable occasion for the students in their final year, positioned just before the heat of academic responsibilities becomes the dominant feature.

The theme of this retreat was inspired by the song 'Are we human or are we dancer?' by the Killers. At the heart of the song, and therefore the retreat, was the age old probing question for all of us 'homo sapiens' - what exactly makes us human.

This same question was asked by the Psalmist when he wrote; 'What is the human being that You should even think of her, the mortal person that you should keep her in mind'. By means of exploring contemporary music and song, discussion groups and prayer the students were led to a deep understanding of the wonderful people they are. We hope the rest of the year will be an equal success.



# Faith Development

## Retreats

Many schools have requested information on school retreats and retreat teams.

We have included in this section information regarding retreats for students and teachers, click links on left side menu to access.

Student retreats provide 'time out' from the hectic schedule of the school term and from the pressures of exam preparation. During retreats students are challenged to examine their faith in the context of their everyday lives. They have space for reflection and prayer, the opportunity to explore their relationship with God and with others and the time to become aware of, and to begin to appreciate, their own individual gifts and talents.

If the Catholic school is to truly communicate the experience of belonging to a faith community then retreats for students are an essential element in supporting their spiritual growth and faith development.

While CEIST cannot recommend any particular retreats for students we have compiled information on retreat centres used by many CEIST schools. Those included in our booklet have been recommended by schools which have used them. However, as each retreat experience is different we would suggest that teachers research the centres and programmes more fully themselves, before booking, in order to ascertain whether or not the particular retreat given in any one centre is suitable for the needs of their students.

If you have used a retreat centre which you would like to see included here please email: [mfarrell@ceist.ie](mailto:mfarrell@ceist.ie)



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## Presentation School Askea - Comenius Programme

Wednesday 27th January 2010

This school year sees the introduction of this new and exciting programme which is being co-ordinated by teacher Ms. Cadinot.

Presentation Askea is the only school in Ireland to be accepted onto the scheme, which involves ten European countries in total. Comenius seeks to develop knowledge and understanding, among teachers and students, of the diversity of European cultures, languages and values.

It helps young people acquire the basic life skills and competencies necessary for their personal development, for future employment and for active citizenship. This programme will extend over a two year period.

In March, the school will welcome teachers and students from France, Holland and Cyprus. In November both teachers and students will travel to another European country and, finally, in March 2011 there will be a gathering of students from all ten participating countries in Nancy, France.

During the two years, students and teachers will discuss "The importance of being European: are we moving towards a common European Model?."

Click [here](#) for more details on Comenius Programme.



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## Cooperative Learning conferences

Monday 25th January 2010

The Second Level Support Service have announced details of their forthcoming Cooperative Learning conferences in association with Professors David and Roger Johnson of the Cooperative Learning Centre, University of Minnesota, USA.

As you may be aware, Cooperative Learning explores methods that empower students of all abilities and learning styles to make significant progress. Research results have indicated that cooperative learning experiences promote higher academic achievement, positive student self esteem, increased attendance at schools and positive student behaviour.

### Conference details are as follows:

A Conference for School Leaders will take place on Tuesday 2nd March 2010 in the Athlone Springs Hotel, Athlone, Co Westmeath.

Teacher Conferences will take place on Saturday 27th February in Bewley's Hotel, Dublin Airport and Saturday 6th March in the Kingsley Hotel, Cork

Professors David and Roger Johnson are world renowned leaders in cooperative learning and they will facilitate the workshops at the conferences.

Participants will also have an opportunity to see evidence of cooperative learning in action in Irish classrooms and consider a range of SLSS supports for developing cooperative learning approaches in schools.

Click [here](#) for further information.

### Leaders Conference Application Form

[Leaders Brochure.pdf](#)

### Teachers Conference Application Form

[Teachers Brochure.pdf](#)



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## Top educationalist delivers lecture at St Leo's College, Carlow

Friday 29th January 2010

An excellent lecture was delivered to staff of St. Leo's College on Friday by Dr. Emer Smyth of the ESRI.

Dr. Smyth has gained an excellent reputation in the area of education research. She has published a number of notable papers in the area of secondary education. These include *Do school differ? Academic and personal development among pupils in the second-level sector* and also *Moving up: the experiences of first year students in post-primary education*.

She has also published *Junior cycle: the experience of second year students* and her most recent paper *Gearing up for the exams*.

Her lecture to the staff was based on the results of a longitudinal study of students from first year to third year in 12 diverse schools.

It looked at the experiences of students in these years. In particular, it concentrated on the transition from primary to secondary. It looked at the factors affecting academic achievement at junior cycle and the factors that influence whether students choose honours or pass level in exams.

The results were fascinating and provided ample material for a marvelous question and answer session between Dr. Smyth and staff members.



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## NCCA Colloquium on the JCRE

Wednesday 6th January 2010

The NCCA Colloquium on the JCRE was held in the Kilkenny Education Centre on December 14th 2009.

Three presentations were made, namely, **The Affective in the JCRE**; **The Impact of JCRE on four students from Presentation Kilkenny**; and lastly, **the Multi-faith context of our schools**.

Participants attended from a variety of educational backgrounds, policy makers, educational practitioners and NCCA personnel. The ideas shared in the various discussion groups will be published late next term.

Four Students from Presentation Loughboy, Kilkenny were honoured to be allowed participate in the forum and the following is an account of the forum from Eimear Connick who was one of four students representing her school.

"Ten years after the introduction of the Religious Education examination at Junior Certificate level, this forum intended on bringing together people within the religious community.

The gathering consisted of teachers, third level lecturers, members of CEIST, nuns and those in charge of putting together the Religious Education exam and syllabus among others. All very well, but for students from Presentation to be offered to participate in this forum was a great honour for the entire school community.

Four girls were to participate - Amy Cooke, Shauna Holohan, Bronagh Dunne and myself. We were privileged to be given this fantastic opportunity to express our views on our experience of the JC Religious Education Course.

The event was hosted in the Kilkenny Education Centre on Monday 14th December. Other than ourselves, two other speakers were due to give their views on the subject - the Religious Education Examiner and a teacher working in a multi-faith environment. Following each presentation, group discussions were held to discuss relevant questions around the topics covered by the speaker.

Ours was the second presentation of the day and we were all anxious about what was to come. Bronagh read first, outlining her experience of JCRE and giving an insight into how her perception of God has changed.

Then, Amy highlighted her experience of the morality section and explained how it had helped her in life on a practical level. The third to address the gathering was Shauna, who talked about how she had improved her relationship with God through studying Judaism. Finally, it was my turn to speak. I outlined my experience of my Journal Work assignment and also the challenges which JCRE posed for me as a person.

It was a relief to get our presentation over and done with and we were surprised at how well our views were received by all present.

The forum concluded with a short speech from a woman who expressed her overall impression on the issues raised throughout the day. Following this, we were treated to a delicious dinner in the area outside the conference room.

Overall, the experience was both enjoyable and fulfilling for all present and we were honoured to be part of this very special and unique occasion."

**Eimear Connick. T.Y.1**

# School Support

## Presentation College, Currylea, Tuam

Presentation College, Currylea, Tuam, Co. Galway, have kindly shared with us information about the school along with recent news and events.

### Presentation College: A Brief History

The Presentation Congregation was founded in 1775 in Cork and arrived in Tuam in 1835. They were the first order of women religious to come to the Archdiocese after the suppression of monasteries and convents.

Almost immediately, the sisters opened schools. Secondary schooling began in 1852 and boarders were taken in 1890.

In 1972 the school was moved to its current location and the Boarding School was closed in 1991.

Today we run an all-inclusive day school, accommodating up to 500 students and a teaching staff of 40 teachers.

### Leaving Cert. Results 2009

The Leaving Cert. class of '09 received exceptional results.

Two students now studying Medicine in Trinity College, Dublin have been awarded Entrance Scholarships.

Both Laura Mulkerrens and Sinead McHugh achieved 600 points (they actually both received a full slate of A grades!), while 10 students achieved in excess of 500 points.

Ciara Loftus was awarded not one but two scholarships, one from Intel for Women in Engineering, and the second from NUIG in the form of the Entrance Exhibition Award.

Ciara is pictured on right receiving her 'Women in Engineering' award.



### American Embassy

In October two of our students were visitors to the American Embassy in Dublin, as guests of Concern. The girls entered a competition, organised by Concern, to write a letter to Barack Obama expressing their worries with regard to climate change.

Soracha O'Rourke's and Katie St. John's essays are featured in full in a book produced from the best entries, along with extracts from the letter by Ailish McAteer. To their great delight, a copy of the book has been presented to the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama himself!



Pictured above are Katie St. John and Soracha O'Rourke with the American Ambassador.

### Debating

Our Senior Public Speaking Team of Soracha O'Rourke, Clodagh Clancy and Hannah Gill are preparing to participate in the 32 County Final of the BPW Competition. Students also participate in Concern Debates, Mental Health debates, Sorolomist Public Speaking and Lit. and Deb. University Debates.

As you can tell, debating plays a major role in the extra-curricular activities. All First Years are given the chance to take part in class debates and the finals are held in the library, with the teams being supported by their classmates.



Pictured above, Joanna Downs, President of the BPW with the winners of the BPW Public Speaking Competition, Soracha O'Rourke, Clodagh Clancy and Hannah Gill.



First Years Debating Teams pictured above.

### The Wizard of Oz

In November we staged the Wizard of Oz, in its 60th anniversary year. We played to a full house for every show, including the matinee performance and three subsequent nights. All the students involved enjoyed it thoroughly, declaring it to be fun as well as educational.



Exceptionally high standards of singing, acting and choreography were achieved. The school orchestra was the focus of much praise, and the set design was impressive. We have already begun to make plans for next year's show.

### Nano Nagle

On Monday 30th November each class participated in a special prayer ceremony in honour of the 225th anniversary of the death of the founder of the Presentation Sisters, Nano Nagle.



### First Year Sport

As always, our First Years have thrown themselves with great enthusiasm into all the sporting activities we have to offer.

These include football, with some of the girls playing significant role in our successful Junior Team, basketball and equestrian sport.

A new gymnastics club has been started for first years this year.



Presentation College, Currylea, Junior Football Team.



Pictured above are the Junior Equestrian Team Members, Emma Donlon, Olivia Collins and Ann Kelly.



Gymnastics at Currylea.

### Science

Science Week saw Currylea hosting its annual Science Road Show. This year 'The Magic of the Circus' entertained 1st and 2nd Year students and their teachers, and brought concepts such as force, gravity and magnetism to life via the circus ring.



Also, three of our Transition Year students are busy working hard on their project, which has been accepted into the Young Scientist Exhibition.

Shortly after Christmas they will be making their way up to the RDS in Dublin to present their findings.

Pictured on left, Transition Year Young Scientists Rachel Donlon, Sarah Bradley, Keely Burke and their Science teacher Jane McAteer.



The Science of the Circus.

Click [here](#) to view our school page for Presentation College, Currylea.

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## News from Eureka Secondary School, Kells

Monday 25th January 2010

Kellie Allen, 5th year student in Eureka Secondary School, won the inaugural Youth Sportsperson of the Year Award in County Meath. Close to 200 guests attended an invitation only event which was the third annual awards ceremony in The Knightsbrook Hotel in Trim.

There were three nominations and Kellie was the only female. Each nominee received a nominee award after which they were interviewed by the Master of Ceremonies Micheál O'Muircheartaigh and then the overall winner was announced.

The multi-talented and dedicated Kellie won the award for her excellent achievements in equestrian sports but she is an all round sportsperson. She won a gold medal in the individual show jumping category at the European Pony Championships in Belgium and also enjoyed success at the RDS in the 148A Pony Championship.

Those efforts earned her the nomination, but she also lined out for Meath u-16 Ladies Gaelic Football who won the All-Ireland in 2009 and was also a member of the schools Basketball team who made it to the All-Ireland Final in 2009.



Pictured above are Ken Davis (Meath Chronicle Editor), Kellie Allen, Micheál O Muircheartaigh (Master of Ceremonies) and Marie Cusack (Cusack Hotel Group).

## Eureka launches FAIRTRADE

As part of their YSI (Young Social Innovators) project which encourages active citizenship, Transition Year Rang Oisín hosted a FAIRTRADE launch in Eureka. Special guest on the day was Deputy Damien English and the aim of this launch was to raise awareness of the benefits of the FAIRTRADE movement in developing countries.

FAIRTRADE is a people's movement for change. It aims to give producers a better deal by ensuring better prices, improved working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade.

It is hoped that by highlighting the objectives of the FAIRTRADE movement, Transition Years can provide a social awareness education which will result in an enhancement of the personal sense of justice and responsibility innate to us all.

We hope that by supporting producers in developing countries we can indeed make a difference.



Pictured above at FAIRTRADE launch are Clodagh Kenny, Aileen Poole, Caitlín Ní Mhealoid, Damien English, Nicole Alken, Amy Brogan and Louise Rickard.



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## A Little Bit Presentation Secondary School Wexford in Africa

Monday 25th January 2010

A very special congratulations and thank you to First Year class 1A2 in Presentation Secondary School, Wexford, who were involved in a very successful project in November.

The class collected and donated gifts of pens, pencils and colouring equipment which were given to the children in a Shanty Town in Capetown, South Africa.



The father of student, Hayley Roberts, travelled there, as part of a team, building houses. He took the gifts from 1A2 and distributed them to the children much to their delight.

He also brought a photograph of the class group to the children. On his return he brought a photo album of the children who had received the lovely gifts.

It gave the students of class 1A2 great pleasure to see the happy smiles and faces of those thrilled to receive the gifts and they received a lovely photograph of a great big 'Thank you'.



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## Presentation Secondary Galway recent fund raising events

Wednesday 27th January 2010

Presentation Secondary School Galway Third Year Students, along with their Teacher Maria Stokes raised €2, 205 for Haiti Earthquake Relief.

Sr. Rose Kelly, a Jesus and Mary Sister, previously based in Galway is currently working in Haiti and these funds will be used to go directly to Relief Projects in Haiti co-ordinated by Sr. Rose.



Pictured above are (LtoR), teacher Maria Stokes, group of third year students presenting cheque to Sr Angela Maughan from the Salthill Convent of Sisters of Jesus and Mary, and Principal Cliona Ni Neill on right hand side.

## Presentation Pakistan Mission



The school also raised funds for the Presentation Pakistan Mission.

Pictured above showing the cheque being presented to Sr Helen Hyland of Presentation Convent Galway, who will forward the funds to Pakistan, are left to Right, staff members of Presentation, Paddy Murphy, Deputy P, Sr Gabriel Freaney, Seamus Mc Guinness, Sr Helen Hyland and Cliona Ni Neill (Principal)