

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

Christmas Greetings From CEIST

CEIST Education Office would like to offer thanks and congratulations to the Boards of Management, the Principals and Staff of all our schools who day by day, create and sustain the environment of love and faith in our schools, which enables young people to flourish, learn and grow.



May you be richly blessed in all you do and may the peace of Christmas be yours.

We would like to wish all in the CEIST community a very happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas.

CEIST News



SWS 2011 ☐ Deadline 21st January 2011!

Applications are currently invited from schools for funding under the Summer Works Scheme (SWS) 2011. Under the 2011 Scheme, schools may apply for one small scale project only and applications must be received by 21st January 2010. Circular 0076/2010 from D.E.S. refers.

Please remember that the Trustees must approve the application form so ensure that you submit the documentation to the CEIST Office for approval well in advance of the closing date.

Click on 'more' link below for further information.

Best of luck with your applications.

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CEIST Prayers for Chairs



Finance Matters!

Bank Certificates of Interest Received

As we approach the end of the 2010 calendar and tax year, now is a good time to ask your bank for a certificate of interest received on any deposit accounts that your school may hold.

As all our CEIST schools have charitable status it is important to check that all interest earned on deposits have been paid gross i.e. without the deduction of deposit income retention tax (DIRT).

It will be clearly stated on the certificates if any interest earned was taxed and the amount of tax paid. If you find that tax has been deducted please contact your bank immediately and remind them of the charitable status of your school and request that the tax be refunded.



CEIST Newsletter - Winter 2010 Edition

We have published our Winter 2010 Newsletter Brochure and it was posted out to all of our schools.

The newsletter features photos from the CEIST Education Conference held in the Killahsee Hotel on the 30th September and 1st October, along with news items from CEIST schools and updates from the CEIST office to name but a few!

Click [here](#) to download an electronic version of the Newsletter.

Faith-related Issues



Catholic Schools Week

The Catholic Schools Week Resources have been made available to all Post Primary Schools.

Catholic Schools Week commences on Sunday 30th Jan to Saturday 5th February 2011 and will be launched in Mt. Sion Waterford on the 24th January.

The theme for 2011 will be "Catholic Schools are rooted in Jesus Christ".

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Reflection

The following is a Christmas Reflection from Margaret Farrell, Faith Development Co-ordinator, CEIST.

Margaret in her reflection mentions that in spite of everything – the cold, the Recession, the difficult times and serious challenges the Church is facing – the message of Christmas is still rooted in our hearts.

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News from CEIST Schools



Christ King Secondary School Cork China Educational Experience

A number of CEIST School Principals and students recently visited China to learn more about their educational system.

All of the visits were funded by the UCC Confucius Institute.

Principal Mary Keane of Christ King Secondary School, Cork, gives the following account of her educational trip to China.

[MORE](#)



St. Anne's Secondary School Tipperary Town Win Recycling Award

A team of Transition Year students in St. Anne's Secondary School, Tipperary Town, Co. Tipperary, won 1st Prize in the Munster Category of the Rehab WEEE recycling competition, which took place last April and May.

They recycled the most electrical appliances and completed a detailed research project on recycling.

The School will receive 10 upgraded computers from Rehab Ireland.

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St. Raphael's College Winners of 2010 Business Student Quiz!

The inaugural Business Student Quiz All-Ireland Final was held in the Tipperary Institute of Technology on Thursday 4th November 2010.

The coveted prize-winner's title, a plaque for display in their school and a generous cash prize courtesy of Ulster Bank was awarded to the winners, Cormac McGuinness, Daire Joyce, Sarah McMahon and Justin Cooney from St. Raphael's College, Loughrea.

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My Experience of the Han Yu Qiao Competition

Carolina Cordero a fifth year student from St. Aloysius School, Cork gives the following account of her trip to China where she was part of an Irish team that competed in the Han Yu Qiao Competition.

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Reviews



CS-COP ICT Workshop

The CEIST Schools Co-operative Programme (CS-COP) hosted an ICT workshop on 13th December in the CEIST Education Office titled "A Road Map for Schools ICT".

Schools from Dublin, Kildare and Louth were invited to the workshop and it is planned to host a number of regional workshops in the New Year. The workshops are primarily designed as a platform to receive schools feedback on ICT and represents a great opportunity for schools to meet, share experiences and suggest areas where the co-operative programme can offer support.

If you have interest in any particular ICT area, please e-mail info@ceist.ie.

Technical Tips



Cloud Computing

The buzz word in ICT at the moment is **Cloud Computing** and this emerging technology has the potential to transform the way organisations access their data and provide services to its customers.

Cloud Computing is a new technology where data is outsourced and stored in a secure environment (the cloud), and then provided as a service online, either by subscription or on a pay on demand basis to customers.

Click [here](#) to access a multitude of information regarding cloud computing from the award winning silicon republic website.



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Catholic Schools Week

Thursday 16th December 2010

The Catholic Schools Week Resources have been made available to all Post Primary Schools. Catholic Schools Week commences on Sunday 30th Jan to Saturday 5th February 2011 and will be launched in Mt. Sion Waterford on the 24th January.

The theme for 2011 will be **"Catholic Schools are rooted in Jesus Christ"**.

We have included resources below for all those working in partnership with the school community.

The resources, which have been produced for post-primary schools in English, Irish and Polish language versions, are designed to be used with:

- Students in the classroom
- Staff members
- Parents
- Members of Boards of Management/Governors
- The wider parish community

We hope that you find the resources included in this pack helpful as you celebrate Catholic Schools Week in 2011.

Catholic Schools Week 2011 Resource Pack

Click [here](#) to download resource. (Irish and Polish Versions to Follow).



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Christmas Reflection

Monday 20th December 2010

“In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on
snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
long ago”.

The words of this well known carol were written by Christina Rossetti in the late nineteenth century as a Christmas poem. The poem was later set to music by Gustav Holst.



During these past few weeks of December 2010 we have been experiencing the reality of a bleak midwinter, with this cold frosty weather,

and the weeks of snow falling on snow. We experience it too as our country faces a Christmas which will be very different, for many, from the Christmases of the Celtic Tiger, when there was such concentration on the material that the real message of Christmas was all but forgotten.

Rosetti wrote that

“In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ”.

Yesterday, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, during Mass in our parish Church, the curate spoke of the extraordinary generosity of people at this time. In spite of the recession a collection taken up by the St. Vincent de Paul Society the previous week was UP €2,000 on last year’s collection.

In the evening, at the Carol Service in Carlow Cathedral, people were sitting on the steps of the choir loft as there were no seats to be had in the main body of the Cathedral. The presider spoke of his delight at seeing so many present – there had been a feeling that because of the desperately cold night there might be no one at the Carol Service!

It seems that in spite of everything – the cold, the Recession, the difficult times and serious challenges the Church is facing – the message of Christmas is still rooted in our hearts. The Christmas story still calls us together to pray, and to recall the miracle of the baby born in Bethlehem “long ago”. God’s Love is touching us and teaching us, once again, to share what we can with others.

Rosetti asked:

“What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart”.

In each of our CEIST schools students, teachers and parents are making huge efforts to mark Christmas by undertaking fundraising, or filling hampers, for those in need at this time of the year.

To all of you, whatever form your generosity has taken, we wish you a very Happy Christmas and blessings throughout 2011.

“The time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn”. Luke 2:7



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Christ King Secondary School Cork China Educational Experience

Thursday 9th December 2010

Principal Mary Keane of Christ King Secondary School, Cork, gives the following account of her educational trip to China.

"I recently had the pleasure of being invited by the UCC Confucius Institute to represent Ireland by joining the Viewing and Emulating Camp for the 3rd Chinese Bridge – Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign Secondary School Students. This competition is organised by Hanban, the agency responsible for teacher training in China. Some 150 foreign secondary students from 35 countries took part in the competition.

We also had one of our students, Emily Kate O'Mahony, participating in this competition. She was invited to China for three weeks. In this time she stayed with a local Chinese family and each day she went to school to prepare for the competition. All this was funded by the UCC Confucius Institute. Emily found it an amazing experience and her spoken Mandarin Chinese really improved.



Pictured on left Mary and Emily in China.

I was a member of a delegation of 16 Principals for all around the world, Canada, United States, Russia, Netherlands, Portugal, Vietnam, Japan, Laos, Kazakhstan and France

From the moment I landed in Beijing Airport I was looked after very well. The trip organisers did a very professional job and struck a very good balance between giving us a flavour of the amazing 5000 year old Chinese culture and an insight into the Chinese education system.

In Beijing we were received very cordially by the Assistant Director of Hanban. It was really good to see a photograph of U.C.C. students studying Chinese in the exhibition area there. The Assistant Director answered questions on the reasons why the Confucius Institutes have grown so fast around the world and how they operate within a communist backdrop. He said that it was all part of their policy of "opening up to the world".

When we arrived in Chongqing Airport we got a very warm welcome from a group of local school children and we were presented with wonderful garlands of fresh flowers. This was very special indeed. Of course the highlights of the trip were the school visits and attending the Chinese Bridge performances.

I must say I was very impressed with our first school visit – Nankai Middle School. In this school we had a very lively debate around assessment which was chaired by Professor Zhao Yong. It appeared, from the debate, that there were similar experiences and viewpoints around this topic in many different countries. In fact this debate could have continued much longer as there was a great mixture of educators from varying different school settings and every educator has an interest in assessment.

We had a very fruitful meeting with one of the Deputy Principals who provided us with relevant information about the school. It was there we were invited to see a section of the Chinese Bridge Competition in a superb concert hall. I was very impressed with the standard of the facilities I saw in Chinese schools. But what I found more amazing was the level of proficiency of our students who were in China for just 3 weeks. The teachers had worked so hard with them in teaching them aspects of Chinese culture and language resulting in a huge improvement in both their oral and aural Chinese. It really showed us that immersion in a language has a huge benefit for the learner.

The choreography of the various musical items was very professional and the seamless integration of local school children into the performances was outstanding.

Our student, Emily Kate, herself, noticed the gap between her knowledge of spoken Chinese language and other foreign students who had many years of studying Chinese and more class work assigned in Chinese Studies per week. She in fact asked if the school could increase the time allocated to Chinese back in Ireland.

She came up to me on the last night and spoke Chinese very naturally, telling me she had found the mobile phone she had misplaced and only changed back to English in mid-stream to say, "I forgot Miss, you do not speak Chinese!"

This is for me summed up the value of her trip.

I myself learned a lot about your education system during the day I spent in Chongqing Railway Middle School. The English teacher assigned to me was very pleasant and gave me a great flavour of how hard the teaching staff worked in China. The Principal was very hospitable and I participated in a very informative teacher forum and student forum. The students in the school were very respectful and most polite to me. I was impressed with the level of engagement in the classroom

Indeed the teacher in Chinese schools, is paid on their results and to achieve the status of Master Teacher, which is the highest paid; the teacher needs to start at 7 in the morning and regularly work to 10 at night!

Schools receive a certain amount of funding from the State and then the balance of their funding is paid to them on the results of their students in the entrance examinations into the Universities.



The final show of 'Chinese Bridge Competition' was very enjoyable and a credit to all involved.

From a cultural point I had great experiences, from visiting the Great Wall, to visiting the Three Gorges Museum, where I saw a tooth which dated back 2 million years!, to visiting the new university Campus in Chongqing, the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, to sampling Chinese cuisine, to having meaningful conversations with Chinese Principals, teachers and students. I absolutely enjoyed real Chinese cuisine and I have to say a week free from caffeine and eating very healthily has done me a power of good".



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St. Anne's Secondary School Win Recycling Award

Monday 20th December 2010

Transition Year students in St. Anne's Secondary School, Tipperary Town, Co. Tipperary, had a great win in the Rehab WEEE recycling competition.

The Transition Year students won their prize for a School/Community based Electrical Products Re-cycling project.

This was organised by Rehab and WEEE Ireland. They collected the largest number of units for re-cycling in the Munster region. They also submitted a research project on re-cycling in general.

The team of students involved on the project (pictured below) were Tierney Bishop, Sinead Compton, Amy Cummins, Katie Bennett, Lorna Chan, Jean Fitzgerald, Theresa O'Dwyer, Katie Crowe, Maria Dillon, Aisling Bourke, Laura Nash, Megan Stanley and Kellie Bourke.



The school will receive 10 upgraded computers from Rehab Ireland. The Rehab

WEEE will be an annual project for the school.

CEIST congratulates all teachers and students involved on the project.



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St. Raphael's College Winners of 2010 Business Student Quiz!

Thursday 16th December 2010

The inaugural Business Student Quiz All-Ireland Final was held in the Tipperary Institute of Technology on Thursday 4th November 2011.

Fifteen victorious teams from the Regional Finals, together with their teachers and supporters made the trip to the Tipperary Institute to battle it out for the prestigious 2010 Business Student Quiz All – Ireland Final prize-winners title.

Taking learning out of the classroom, and adding an element of fun was the objective of the final with the top performing teams from Cork, Dublin, Donegal, Galway and the Mid-West tested on key Junior Certificate business fundamentals in addition to general knowledge.

The coveted prize-winner's title, a plaque for display in their school and a generous cash prize courtesy of Ulster Bank was awarded to the winners, Cormac McGuinness, Daire Joyce, Sarah McMahon and Justin Cooney from St. Raphael's College, Loughrea.

The tension rose quickly on the day, as St. Raphael's College, Loughrea and Gort Community School went head-to-head in a tie breaker round for first place. The Loughrea team eventually emerged as victors, followed by Gort Community School and CBC, Cork in a close second and third place respectively.



Pictured above (front LtoR) are Cormac McGuinness, Daire Joyce,

Sarah Monaghan and Justin Cooney who represented St. Raphael's College when they won the 2010 All-Ireland Business Student Quiz. They are pictured with Jenny Harrington, BSTAI, Dolores Finn-Kelly, teacher; Siobhan Meehan, Ulster Bank, Thurles (sponsor); Dan Hallissey, branch manager, John Kenehan, Tipperary Institute; Miriam Gleeson, teacher; and Conor Stakelum, Stakelum Thurles (sponsor).



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My Experience of the Han Yu Qiao Competition

Thursday 9th December 2010

Carolina Cordero a fifth year student from St. Aloysius School, Cork gives the following account of her trip to China where she was part of an Irish team that competed in the Han Yu Qiao Competition

When I took part in the Chinese Bridge Competition in UCC before the summer, I never thought that I would be part of a team (along with Emilie O'Mahony and Lisa Wong) representing Ireland in the next round of the competition in Chongqing. From the very beginning the trip was full of new experiences for me, as I had never been on a long flight before, and when we arrived in China after what seemed like days of travelling I was as excited as I was tired.



Pictured above Carolina Cordero in China.

We arrived in Beijing and met a few of the other teams at the hotel, before having dinner and going to see the Forbidden City. I thought the Forbidden City was a very impressive building and took plenty of photos! The next day we were taken to see the Great Wall of China and the Bird's Nest Stadium. I kept thinking about how much of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity the trip was, and how if it wasn't for the Han Yu Qiao trip I never would have been able to say that I visited such an amazing, famous landmark.

We flew to Chongqing and were brought to the hotel near the university where we would be staying. By now we had discovered that the other teams had been studying Chinese for years and most teams had at least one member who was a fluent speaker, but after our initial panic we decided not to worry too much about the competition and focus more on enjoying the experience and making friends.

In Chongqing we practised our performance for the first part of the competition. Every team had to represent their country and culture in their performance, and also demonstrate some skill in speaking Chinese. We introduced ourselves in Chinese and then performed an Irish song and a small bit of Irish dancing. The opening ceremony was very entertaining, as we were able to watch the other countries' performances before it came to our turn, although we were nervous when we had to go onstage. Pictured below (LtoR) are Emily O'Mahony, Carolina Cordero, Lisa Wong and a Chinese volunteer.

The next part of the competition was a quiz. This was the round which we found most difficult, especially as the competition was being explained to us through Chinese and we weren't completely certain what to do, although we did have a very friendly volunteer from the university who helped us. There were several types of questions in the quiz, which teams picked randomly, and the question which we got involved adding strokes to a character to make it into other characters.

As we didn't have much experience with characters, we found this almost impossible, especially as I then had to speak for one minute about one of the characters which I couldn't read. When we got offstage we were all a little bit embarrassed, but I was happy that I had tried my best and we felt that the competition could only get easier from that point on.



After this we were divided into groups, each group named after a zodiac animal, and each group went to a different school in Chongqing to learn a Chinese performance for the next round. The group I was in, the Monkey Group, went to Verakin Middle School where the students spent several days teaching us a dance. I found this part of the competition fun but tiring, and for the first day or two I kept forgetting what to do. On one of the days we were given a tour of the school, which I found very interesting. I enjoyed talking to the students and seeing the differences between schools in China and Ireland.

The best insight into Chinese life that we got during the trip was the time that we spent with a host family. The family I was staying with took me to eat Chongqing hotpot, showed me tourist spots in the city and brought me to a market where I bought lots of unusual souvenirs. I was amazed at how friendly and welcoming the host family were, and I hope to keep in contact with their son Lawrence.

The last round of the competition was the Happy Shopping round, in which we were given a shopping list in Chinese and told to find the items in a supermarket. Of the eight items on the list, we were only able to find one, but we were so relieved that the difficult parts of the competition were over that we couldn't really be too disappointed.

After the best teams from this round had competed in a final, the competition ended with a brilliant closing ceremony. After a few performances and the announcement of the winners, everybody sang the competition theme song together. It was an unforgettable moment, with confetti falling down and everyone hugging each other. It was that night that we were unexpectedly told that everyone who took part in the competition had won a scholarship to study in China, which is a fantastic opportunity but unfortunately can only be taken in 2011 which wouldn't be possible for me.

The only thing left to do after this was plant a friendship tree, which we did on our last day in Chongqing. We flew to Beijing the next day, and spent one day there before returning home.

I think we all learned a lot from our participation in the competition. Our Chinese definitely improved due to the fact that we had to speak it, and we also learned a lot about Chinese culture. I also think the competition was a great opportunity to make friends from other countries. After taking part in this competition I have a huge interest in the Chinese language and hope to continue learning it in future, and hopefully some day I will have another chance to visit China.