

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

Sr Sheila Kelleher's Retirement from Presentation Secondary School, Ballypheane

Sr. Sheila Kelleher, Principal of Presentation Secondary School, Ballypheane is retiring as Principal of the school at the end of August, 2012.

Sr. Sheila has given an invaluable contribution since her arrival to the school in 1986.

The school was then known as 'Immaculate Heart Secondary School' and under Sr. Sheila's stewardship the Presentation school has gone from strength to strength.

The following article with extracts taken from the school newsletter shows the great respect there was for Sr. Sheila from teachers and students.

[MORE >](#)



CEIST News

Trustee Support Day for Chairpersons of CEIST School Boards of Management

CEIST invited our School Board of Management Chairpersons to a Trustee support day on Saturday 19th May in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

After registration and coffee, CEIST CEO, Anne Kelleher welcomed all attendees and started the day with an opening prayer followed by an acknowledgement and appreciation to all Boards of Management for their hard work and voluntary service. The Directors of each department in CEIST gave a presentation on the day, which provided helpful material and support mechanisms for our Chairpersons.

It was encouraging to see the very lively and interactive discussion that took place during the open forum, with a number of topics discussed such as Social Media intrusions into school and community life.

It is hoped that the support day from the Trust was both enjoyable and beneficial for the Chairpersons.



CEIST Education Conference

The Seventh Annual CEIST Education Conference will be held on Thursday the 27th and Friday 28th of September in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone.

In many ways it is the highlight of the CEIST year and crucial to our efforts to underline the mutual understandings and shared ties that bind us together into a community of schools.

CEIST were greatly encouraged by its largest attendance to date for last year's conference and it is hoped that many of our School Principals, Deputy Principals and School Board of Management Chairpersons will be able to attend again this year.

The conference theme for 2012 is **"Many Desks, One Table"**.

We are at present finalising workshops and speakers. The agenda and further details will be published in due course on the CEIST website.



CEIST Annual Statistical Returns 2011-2012

We are very grateful to all schools who have submitted their annual statistical returns to date. The data collected from these statistics are crucial in informing the Education Office of underlying trends and standards adhered to in our schools.

A revised statistics form was distributed to all CEIST schools for 2011-2012 term. Please e-mail jwoods@ceist.ie if any issues are encountered completing or if you wish the form to be emailed to you.

Energy Saving School Newsletter

Click [here](#) to view the May edition of the Energy Saving School newsletter, which contains lots of useful ideas for "Energy Savings" in schools.

Presentation Tuam Students Compete in All-Ireland final of Siansa - Gael Linn

Presentation College, Tuam, students achieved third place in the All Ireland Final of the Siansa - Gael Linn Competition, which took place in the National Concert Hall on Sunday 29th April. The group, named Macalla, qualified through two preliminary rounds of the competition before being chosen to compete in the final eight.

They received prize money and the top three groups will also have their winning performances released on CD.

Group members included sisters Ciara and Aoife Finan, Kellie Mannion and Lisa Kelly. Click [here](#) to view photo of the group.

Social Networking Guidelines for Schools

At our recent Trustee Day for Chairpersons' seminar, it was interesting to note the overall pre-occupation amongst the attendees, with concerns for the extent to which Social Networking intrudes on school and community life.

We will be developing guidelines on approaches to be taken in this area and have been in contact with the NCTE and with the IT Policy unit in the Department of Education and Skills, with a view to progressing guidelines on developing Social Media Policies.

By way of a start, we include a hyperlink to [EDUTOPIA](#), for your consideration. The EDUTOPIA resources focuses the mind on the steps required in Policy creation, as well as offering sample Policy documents.

While the document applies to America, as we know, Social Media is limitless in its jurisdiction, hence the probability that this link will be of benefit.

We welcome your own practical [suggestions](#) as no doubt, there are success stories about handling Social Media and we would like to share best practice in the area via our members' area.

Competition

CEIST Schools Win Young Social Innovator Awards

CEIST schools were amongst the Young Social Innovator (YSI) award winners at the Annual YSI awards day held on the 10th May in Citywest Hotel, Dublin.

Some 3,500 secondary school students were at the event, which recognised their work in tackling problems including poverty, homelessness and mental health issues.

[MORE >](#)

Education Matters

Social Networking Guidelines for Schools

Faith-related Issues

MERCY IN KENYA

Former School Principal, Mercy College, Woodford, Mary Killeen shares the following fascinating account of her visits to Kenya and the great work that is been done by the Irish Sisters out there.

[MORE >](#)

News from CEIST Schools

Scoil Chríost Rí - To Broadway and Back

The TY's of Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise and St. Mary's CBS have once again put on an outstanding show.

"To Broadway and Back" was put on in the Dunamase theatre to sell-out crowds on the 24th, 25th and 26th of April.

The show went down a storm with a standing ovation every single night. But this success did not come without a lot of hard work.

Rehearsals began months ago with director Karen Hackett putting in immense effort to come up with an outstanding show.

[MORE >](#)

St Joseph's Rush Win Educational Achievement Awards

Six students from St Joseph's Secondary School in Rush were honoured at the Trinity College Access Programme (TAP) Educational Achievement Awards.

The winning students were Eamonn Mackey for his project on The English Monarchy, Kerrie McMahon for her project on Ireland, Roisin Carr for her project entitled 'How a Bank Broke a Country', Dylan Curley for his project on The 1916 Rising, Laura Healy for her project on the Titanic and Aire Bruzas for her project on New York.

Students from schools all over Dublin presented projects to Trinity College. Students and parents were invited to a ceremony in Trinity College to receive their awards from the Provost, Patrick Prendergast.

[MORE >](#)

Presentation Secondary School, Thurles Win SEAI Competition

Presentation Secondary School, Thurles, Transition year Students Emma Kerwick, Mary Claire Hanafin, Caroline O'Connor, Lydia O'Toole, Shauna O'Flynn and Jennifer Mullally are the overall winners of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's (SEAI) search for One Good Idea with their entry encouraging the use of cleaner, greener energy.

The students showcased their work among twenty competing schools chosen from around the country to exhibit at the prestigious national final which took place on Thursday May 3rd, in Dublin Castle.

The girls researched alternative energy including the use of wind turbines, solar panels and wood chip burners.

[MORE >](#)

News from Coláiste Muire, Ennis, Co. Clare

Coláiste Muire, Ennis, Co. Clare has very kindly shared their recent news and events within the school.

The school has been very busy with lots of creative things being done by the students, which we are delighted to share on the CEIST website.

[MORE >](#)

Presentation College, Athenry students to scale the heights for great causes

A group of Presentation College, Athenry students are joining in a record-breaking climb of Kilimanjaro to raise funds for both Crumlin Children's Hospital and Chernobyl International.

The nine Presentation College TY students have to raise funds in advance of their August adventure.

As Athenry Kilimanjaro Achievers (AKA), they are part of a larger group of 120 students from all around Ireland who hope to raise €100, 000 to save 100 children's lives - and they want to break a new Guinness World Record in the process for the most people to summit Kilimanjaro at one time.

[MORE >](#)

St Mary's Secondary School, Ballina sets 'Rock the Boat' World Record for Charity

St. Mary's Secondary School, Ballina, looks set to win its second official Guinness World Record – after almost 1,600 people "Rocked the Boat" together on Tuesday, May 1.

Hundreds took to the grounds of this famed all-girls secondary school to perform the well-known "Rock the Boat" dance routine – surpassing the 1,428-strong record previously set.

[MORE >](#)

Reflecting CEIST Values

Challenge to Change 2012 - CEIST School Projects

On Wednesday 10th May students from twenty seven Presentation Primary and Secondary schools, who had participated in this year's 'Challenge to Change' programme met in the Springhill Hotel in Kilkenny to share their concern about social issues which must be addressed if we are to make our world a place where justice prevails.

Eleven CEIST schools were represented this year.

[MORE >](#)

Technical Tips

Microsoft Educational Resources

The following is a very useful website from Microsoft with plenty of links to educational resources and tutorials, most of which are free to use. Click on more below to view.

Click [here](#) to view another Microsoft article titled "six ways to speed up your pc".

Undo Send on Gmail

The **undo send** feature on Gmail gives you a window of up to 30 seconds to retrieve an email sent in error. The following are steps to enable;

- Click on the Gear icon in the upper right corner of your Gmail screen.
- Click Settings - select Lab tab
- Scroll down to "Undo Send" option and select enable
- Click "Save Changes"
- Go back to settings again and from "General" tab set your time delay for undo send (10 - 30 secs)

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CEIST Schools Win Young Social Innovator Awards

Friday 11th May 2012

IF YOU were looking for apathetic teenagers, you wouldn't find one at the Young Social Innovators' annual showcase in Citywest, Dublin, yesterday.

Some 3,500 secondary school students were at the event, which recognised their work in tackling problems including poverty, homelessness and mental health issues.

They enthusiastically told of how they started campaigns on issues such as making Holy Communion affordable, encouraging restaurants to provide Braille menus and discouraging animal testing in the cosmetic industry.

The screams of delight when their schools won awards could probably have been heard at Áras an Uachtaráin, from where President Michael D Higgins had come to view the projects. He received a standing ovation after he said it was not a time for cynicism.

"It's a time for us getting beyond anger, often righteous anger," he said. "There just isn't any point in flailing around in negativity. It is a time to be positive. It is a time to look out there ahead and see the kind of society that you want it to be . . . and put it into practice."

He had already been lobbied by the project that eventually won the Young Social Innovators of 2012 award. Davis College of Summerhill, Mallow, Co Cork won the award for their campaign to raise awareness of missing people and have a national day for missing people established.

They gathered 12,000 signatures from students, ran a bus shelter and billboard campaign and addressed the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality in March.

Josie McGrath (16) said it was "absolutely unbelievable" to win the award. "This is just the icing on the cake."

They will meet Minister for Justice Alan Shatter today and hope he will announce the establishment of a national day for missing people. "We're not going to take no for an answer," she said.

The idea has already received all-party support.

More than 40,000 young people have taken part in the Young Social Innovators' initiative since 2001.

More than €85,000 was raised for 90 charities and organisations this year.

The Silver Award went to **Mercy Secondary School, Mounthawk, Tralee, Co Kerry.**

St Joseph's Secondary School, Rochfortbridge, Co Westmeath won the Bronze Award.

Category Winners - CEIST Schools

St Anne's Secondary School, Convent of Mercy, Rosanna Road, Tipperary. (Making Our World Healthier – Physical Health).

St Mary's Secondary School, Irishtown, New Ross, Co Wexford (Making Our World More Fair and Just).

St Anne's Secondary School, Convent of Mercy, Rosanna Road, Tipperary Town (Making Our World Greener).

Other awards

St Mary's Secondary School, New Ross, Co Wexford.

Our Lady's College, Drogheda, Co Louth.

CEIST congratulates all of our schools who took part in this notable and very worthwhile initiative.



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MERCY IN KENYA

Wednesday 16th May 2012

Former School Principal, Mercy College, Woodford, Mary Killeen shares the following fascinating account of her visits to Kenya and the great work that is being done by the Irish Sisters out there.

Having retired from Secondary Teaching in 2009 I am now in the middle of my second visit to Kenya (pop. 42 million) and will soon have spent three months here. Though based in the Capital, Nairobi I have also lived with Irish Mercy Sisters in two remote rural areas, Chepareria and Nuu, while giving lessons in the local Polytechnic schools.

My experiences have filled me with admiration for the Irish Sisters (and others), with whom I lived and worked, proud of being Irish, and compelled to let others know of the generosity, commitment and sacrifices made by these Sisters in often very difficult and demanding circumstances.

Sisters usually arise at 5.30am to attend to prayers and religious duties including morning mass, household chores and breakfast, before the working day begins at 8am. Many Sisters work in schools as teachers and social workers where they care for needy children providing education, school meals, home visits, food and clothes and are making great progress in rehabilitating street children, encouraging them to return to education and to learn a trade or get some skills.



Other Sisters work in the community, in clinics and hospitals, as nurses, midwives, doctors and social workers, caring for the sick, the hungry and often starving, supporting families in need because of illness, bereavement, fire, drought or sometimes flooding. Sisters regularly visit the sick and elderly in their homes and bring small gifts to those who are in prison and often neglected by family and friends.



Some Sisters manage donor funds, buying and allocating food to the hungry, paying school fees, funding training or small enterprises and supplying destitute farmers with seed to encourage self reliance.

I was so proud to experience the humanitarian work done by the Sisters and to observe many wall plaques acknowledging funding received from Irish donors including Sisters of Mercy, other congregations, Irish Government Aid and NGOs.

Sister Catherine McCauley realized that when people are caught in the "Poverty Trap" education is the key. The Irish Sisters have brought this philosophy to Kenya and believe that educating girls/women will provide some stability for them and their children in the future. Sisters have founded Primary Schools (particularly in slum areas), Secondary Schools, and Polytechnic Schools (particularly in rural areas).

During my first visit to Kenya I was based in Nairobi, 'The City in the Sun' with a population of 4.5 million. There I taught in St. Catherine's Primary School, working with children from the slums who had fallen behind in their education due to family difficulties and also taught children in St Marians' Home for orphans. I was privileged to stay with Sr. Mary, described as the 'Mother Teresa of Nairobi'. For more than thirty years she has worked tirelessly to educate and support the children and families in the shanty towns.

From her I learnt a lot about the difficulties of life in the slums, ie. huge unemployment, no social welfare leading to hunger and real poverty, lack of education and opportunities, absence of basic sanitation or running water, homes destroyed by fire, floods, or demolished by the local Council.



When planning my return visit to Nairobi Kenya I wished to experience life in a farming district. Accordingly it was arranged that I would travel up country to stay with Irish Sisters who have come to live among the poor, in remote, rural regions. This involves travelling hundreds of miles in scorching, dusty conditions, often in overcrowded buses, using roads which deteriorate on moving further from Nairobi, frequently and dangerously eroded. Such roads end in even dustier dirt tracks. Sometimes travellers are attacked by bandits en route. Sisters' houses are adequate but far from luxurious.

The Sisters live on carefully budgeted allowances and dine mainly on local produce choosing to give any spare funds to helping the needy. Supply of water and power are often erratic. Without constant supplies, hot showers, microwaves, electric kettles are but a dream. However the Sisters have developed coping skills and methods of survival long forgotten in Ireland since the arrival of the Celtic Tiger and indeed since his departure also!

My assignment was giving lessons on 'The World of Work' in two rural Polytechnic schools in Chepareria and Nuu. Both schools provide training for girls, equipping them with practical skills such as Dress-making, Tailoring, Hairdressing and Beauty, Catering and Hospitality and also Computer Training. Such skills should help them find employment or even start a small business.



The majority of students in Chepareria and Nuu come from small farms, badly affected by ongoing drought, particularly in Nuu, heavy rains when crops(mainly maize) are ready for harvesting or flash floods , causing soil erosion, burst river banks or impassible roads. Farmers' incomes have been eroded or even fully depleted and families are experiencing hunger and even starvation while their animals, cattle, goats and donkeys, are struggling to survive.

Many parents are unable to pay school fees (eg 10-150 euro) and so schools struggle to cope as money is needed to pay teachers, purchase basic equipment /resources and supply cooking ingredients and other materials for students doing exams. The Sisters struggle and juggle against impossible odds but somehow seem to manage.

Their efforts are hugely appreciated at local level but get little attention in the public arena. In recent years/months the media has highlighted and exposed issues of abuse by members of the Catholic Clergy and members of Religious Orders, indeed a small minority have been guilty. We all experience shame and pain at such stories. Innocent members of the communities have been deeply hurt. In the interest of fairness, journalists who reported on these cases should now balance the scale and portray the other side of the story ie the many highly qualified Religious who forfeited salaries, pensions, homes and families to live in poor circumstances and devote their lives to the service of the poor, sick and needy, often risking their health and even their lives in doing so.

Some came to the missions after profession, others came following retirement. Many are now well past their prime but still filled with missionary zeal and commitment.

My purpose in writing this document is two-fold. I want to thank Sisters Mary, Patricia, Veronica and Goretti for their hospitality and kindness to me during my visits. I was inspired by their dedicated service to the poor and support to the many volunteers who came to help.

I wish to convey my gratitude to my family, friends and neighbours for the generous donations sent to support the work of the Sisters. I can assure them of how much such help is needed, how well it is spent and how far a few euro can stretch here in Kenya.

I hope to inform others of the work of the Sisters of Mercy (and other Religious) and to balance some of the hurt they have suffered. Finally I wish to encourage and inspire you to continue to support them in their good work. I will be forever grateful for the privilege of sharing a small part of their lives.

Mary Killeen 086- 1052022

PS. My time in Kenya was not all about work. There were many wonderful and memorable experiences including: Safari Trip to the Massai Mara, the beach at Mombassa, meeting former colleagues from Mercy College, Woodford (who had worked on building a new school near Mombassa), travelling on the overnight train from Mombassa, visiting Massai people in their traditional mud-hut village, visiting some elderly friends at a luxury retirement village, staying at Sanctuary Farm, experiencing the local village markets, purchasing and allocating food to the hungry, visiting the prisons, attending mass in the Parish and slum churches, graduation ceremonies in universities, attending a funeral and a wedding, praying at Edel Quinn's grave, coffee at The Norfolk and The Stanley Hotels, walking in the Ngong hills, a truly 'Out of Africa' experience.



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TO BROADWAY AND BACK - Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise

Tuesday 29th May 2012

The TY's of Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise and St. Mary's CBS have once again put on an outstanding show.

"To Broadway and Back" was put on in the Dunamaise theatre to sell-out crowds on the 24th, 25th and 26th of April.

From Fame and Cabaret to West Side Story and Wicked, this year's show offered more dancing, singing, acting and comedy than ever seen before. Not only did the students perform songs from some of Broadway's most popular musicals they also performed some of the latest hits from the music's most popular, from the swing of Olly Murs to the soul of Florence and the Machine.

The show went down a storm with a standing ovation every single night. But this success did not come without a lot of hard work. Rehearsals began months ago with director Karen Hackett putting in immense effort to come up with an outstanding show.

Choreography was taught and learned and then over time perfected. On the 10th of March a group of the cast got the chance to experience an amazing dance workshop choreographed by Sean Hackett and accompanied by director Karen Hackett.

Sean has featured in London's West End shows such as Cabaret, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers and more. Sean has been performing for 10 years in London and his extreme talent was very useful in the staging of our show.



The Easter holidays were also spent vigorously rehearsing everything from the show.

This was when our show really started to take shape.

Hours were spent perfecting everything and making sure that our show would run smoothly.

As show time came

nearer and nearer more and more rehearsal time was added. Saturdays and Sundays were spent in St. Paul's primary school running the whole show to put the finishing touches on. It then came time to hit the Dunamaise.

On Monday the 23rd the entire cast were in the Dunamaise to stage the dress rehearsal. This was our last chance to fix any little problems and to put the finishing touches to our show. The next morning everyone was in at 9 and the excitement began.

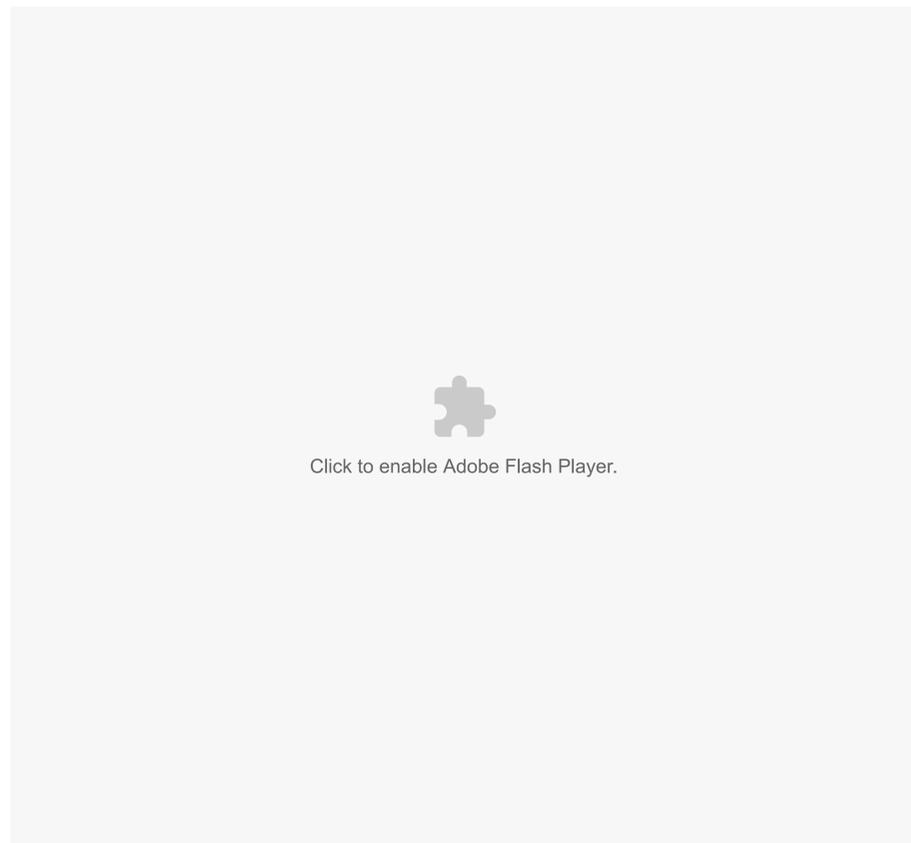
Nerves were high, as hair was curled, costumes were put on and make was applied (even on the boys). As the curtains opened everyone was on a high and the singing and dancing got into full swing. The first show went very well.

Throughout the week the shows were a hit with every audience, and the buzz and energy grew with every show that went by. The cast became more confident and the immense talent of our super cast shone. The final show was one of mixed emotions. The buzz and excitement still existed but there was an underlying feeling of disappointment as nobody wanted the week to be over.

Our final show was incredible and was an outstanding end to what had been and unforgettable week for all involved.

It is safe to say that "to Broadway and Back" was a huge success. It was a week that all the cast will never forget and was an experience that was the highlight of TY for all.

Photo Album



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St Joseph's Rush Win Educational Achievement Awards

Monday 21st May 2012

Six students from St Joseph's Secondary School in Rush were honoured at the Trinity College Access Programme (TAP) Educational Achievement Awards.

The winning students were **Eamonn Mackey** for his project on The English Monarchy, **Kerrie McMahon** for her project on Ireland, **Roisin Corr** for her project entitled 'How a Bank Broke a Country,' **Dylan Curley** for his project on The 1916 Rising, **Laura Healy** for her project on the Titanic and **Aire Bruzas** for her project on New York.

Students from schools all over Dublin presented projects to Trinity College. Students and parents were invited to a ceremony in Trinity College to receive their awards from the Provost, Patrick Prendergast.

The students also met guest speaker John Lonergan who is former Governor of Mountjoy.



Pictured above (LtoR) Daragh Nealon Guidance Counsellor, Judi O Boyle First Year - Year Head, John Lonergan, Jacinta Owens Deputy principal, Patricia Hayden Principal, with the students. *(Photo courtesy of Joseph Corr)*.

Speaking at the event Principal Patricia Hayden said, "St Joseph's Rush began its relationship with the Trinity Access Programme in 2007. At that stage just 14% of the students progressed to third level.

There was a huge increase in 2011 with 75% of our students progressing to third level. Those statistics speak for themselves. The Trinity Access Programme has been central to bringing about that improvement."

To mark the occasion Ms Hayden presented Provost of Trinity College, Patrick Prendergast with a metal sculpture of a bird taken from the St Joseph's Golden Jubilee sculpture 'The Tree of Life.'

In presenting the sculpture, Ms Hayden said that "Many hopes and dreams will be fulfilled because of TAP and I hope one day a student from St Joseph's will be Provost of Trinity and look at the sculpture and celebrate their achievement."

Golden Jubilee

St Joseph's Secondary School celebrated its Golden Jubilee this year. As part of those celebrations, they commissioned a commemorative sculpture.

The pupils were asked to suggest ideas about the design of the sculpture. The artist, Paul Flynn used steel and tiles to create The Tree of Life. He used negative space to suggest five birds, which represented the five decades the school has been in existence.

The Bird sculpture presented to the Provost of Trinity was made from the steel the artist removed to create negative space in the tree.

St Joseph's pupils raised all the funds to pay for this sculpture; the steel alone cost €5,000. They were happy and proud to pay for this piece of art- they saw its value. Pupils are proud of the role they played in being involved in creating the piece of art.



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Monday 21st May 2012



Presentation Secondary School, Thurles, Transition year Students Emma Kerwick, Mary Claire Hanafin, Caroline O' Connor, Lydia O' Toole, Shauna O' Flynn and Jennifer Mullally are the overall winners of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's (SEAI) search for One Good Idea with their entry **encouraging the use of cleaner, greener energy.**

The students showcased their work among twenty competing schools chosen from around the country to exhibit at the prestigious national final which took place on Thursday May 3rd, in Dublin Castle.

The girls researched alternative energy including the use of wind turbines, solar panels and wood chip burners.

They carried out case studies on the efficiency of the woodchip burner in the Anner Hotel and Rockwell College and the use of solar panels in Supervalu Baltinglass.

As part of their campaign they held an energy awareness evening and organised for the test driving of an electric car.

The students not only get the coveted title of national winners of the One Good Idea competition, but they will now go forward to represent Ireland in the U4Energy Awards.

U4energy is the first pan-European competition on energy education organised by the European Commission.

Almost 1,500 students from 85 schools submitted campaigns to this year's One Good Idea competition.

Congratulations to the girls and their teacher Ms Olivia O' Brien.



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News from Coláiste Muire, Ennis, Co. Clare

Tuesday 8th May 2012

Taoiseach receives early 'age friendly' loyalty card

With the Government trying to save money, Taoiseach Enda Kenny would do well to pay a visit Ennis where he is now entitled to money off at a variety of businesses.



Transition Year students of Coláiste Muire presented the Taoiseach with an Age Friendly Loyalty Card during a visit to Leinster House on Wednesday 21st April, the day after he turned 61.

The card is usually reserved for retired people and pensioners, giving reduced prices in a number of participating locations in Ennis.

However, the students made a special exception for the Taoiseach making him an honorary subscriber to the card.

The card is part of the New Year New Price initiative, in collaboration with a number of cafes and taxi companies around the town, where a reduced price has been agreed for holders of the card.

The transition years devised the card as part of their Young Social Innovators project on Positive Ageing.

Churchlands Senior High School European Tour 2012

During the Easter holidays Coláiste Muire School Choir hosted the Churchlands Senior High School, from Perth in Western Australia, on their European Tour 2012.

Churchlands is a co-educational state secondary school. The school has a specialist music programme which enjoys an international reputation and is regarded as the leading music school in Western Australia.

The touring group consisted of 140 students comprising a symphony orchestra, mixed and equal voice choirs, chamber ensembles and various other performing groups.

The purpose of their visit was to learn about Irish culture, to collaborate on traditional Irish repertoire and to present a joint concert with our school choir.

Over two days the students attended a ceili and demonstration from our traditional Irish music groups and participated in an Irish music workshop. The culmination of the visit was a joint rehearsal and thrilling concert in Friday 13th April.

Clare's Got Talent

Well done to our fourth year Music students who were recently announced winners of "Clare's Got Talent" in Glor.

This competition was sponsored by Clare FM and St. Francis Credit Union. Students received a cheque for €5000.

Under the direction of their music teacher Michael Hennessy, the acapella group of thirteen students, aptly named "12 plus 1" performed a range of songs throughout various stages of the competition including The Locomotion, Lollipop and Putting on the Ritz.



Mental Health Ireland

Well done to Sarah Cronin, Transition Year student who was selected as the Munster Provincial winner in the Design a Cover Art Project.

Sarah was presented with her prize in the Edmund Burke Theatre, Trinity College, Dublin on 31st March, 2012.

Visit to Criminal Courts of Justice and Kilmainham Gaol

Both of our Transition Year classes visited the Criminal Courts of Justice on Thursday 26th April. This visit was a follow up to the Public Access to Law programme that students participated in earlier in the year. The visit was organised by the Courts Service. A Barrister staged a mock trial for the class. Students then had the opportunity to attend various court cases in the complex throughout the morning.

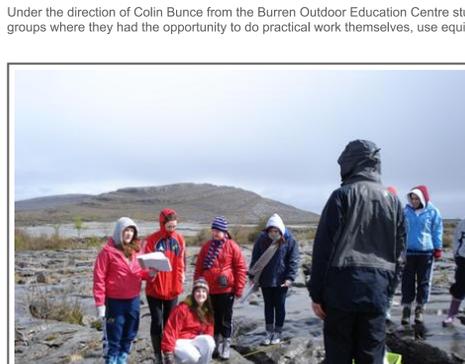
In the afternoon students had a guided tour of Kilmainham Gaol and they spent some time in its museum. The tour of Kilmainham Gaol was facilitated by Heritage Ireland.

A most enjoyable day was had by all!

Geographic Investigation

As part of their Heritage Studies programme both TY classes spent a day in the Burren on 17th April, carrying out a study of limestone pavement at Carron.

Under the direction of Colin Bunce from the Burren Outdoor Education Centre students worked in small groups where they had the opportunity to do practical work themselves, use equipment and collect data.



European Alliance Secondary Schools Competition 2012

Coláiste Muire has been selected as the winner in the Secondary Schools Competition under the Political and Information Activities.

Two Transition Year students, Orla Bredin and Roisin Curran were invited to Brussels to attend the Plenary Session of the Committee of the Regions from 2nd to 4th May. Ms. Finola Howard accompanied both students.

Leaving Cert Applied Students visit Delphi

As part of their Leisure and Recreation Module our LCA 1 class visited Delphi Mountain Resort before Easter and participated in a multi activity programme.

They enjoyed a range of water based and land based activities including surfing, canoeing, kayaking, mountaineering, abseiling, rock climbing, high ropes and zip wire.

The programme also included a series of team building tasks.



YSI Speakout Galway

Darrelle Colleran, Orla Bredin and Roisin Curran represented the TY1 class at the YSI Regional Speakout in the Ardilaun Hotel Galway with their project "Positive Ageing: It's not the years in the life it's the life in the years."



Mid West Simon Community

Our TY2 class raised €1200 for the Mid West Simon Community from various activities carried out as part of their YSI project, "Think Outside the Cardboard Box".

Activities included a sleep over in school, "cash for clobber" and organising a talent show for our junior students.



Log On Learn

Intel, in collaboration with Microsoft and supported by An Post, came up with this initiative called 'Log on Learn' or LOL for short.

The LOL initiative involves Transition Year students 'buddying up' with older people from their local community to teach computers and the internet.

Coláiste Muire has just concluded this programme for a third successive year. We offered two six week sessions this year.

Classes took place each Monday morning from 9.10 am to 10.10am in both Computer Rooms.



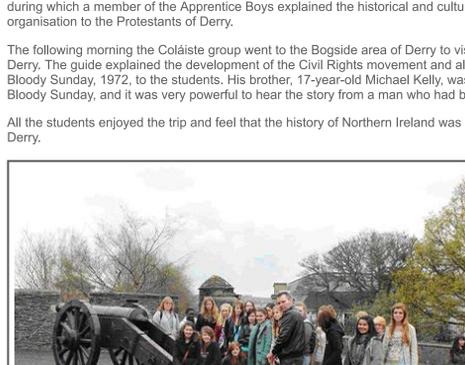
History trip to Derry

Over the Easter holidays, 26 senior History students accompanied by three teachers went on an over-night trip to Derry to learn about the history of the Civil Rights movement, the Apprentice Boys of Derry and the early years of "The Troubles".

The group went on a walking tour of the historic City Walls, during which the guide explained the 1689 Siege of Derry (including the ghost of little Alice!), and how the Catholic and Protestant areas of the city were laid out below the Walls. Next, the students had an interesting tour of the Apprentice Boys of Derry Memorial Hall, during which a member of the Apprentice Boys explained the historical and cultural significance of the organisation to the Protestants of Derry.

The following morning the Coláiste group went to the Bogside area of Derry to visit the Museum of Free Derry. The guide explained the development of the Civil Rights movement and also described the events of Bloody Sunday, 1972, to the students. His brother, 17-year-old Michael Kelly, was one of those killed on Bloody Sunday, and it was very powerful to hear the story from a man who had been there on the day.

All the students enjoyed the trip and feel that the history of Northern Ireland was brought alive by visiting Derry.





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Presentation College, Athenry students to scale the heights for great causes

Saturday 12th May 2012

A group of Presentation College, Athenry students are joining in a record-breaking climb of Kilimanjaro to raise funds for both Crumlin Children's Hospital and Chernobyl International.

The nine Presentation College TY students have to raise funds in advance of their August adventure. They have already run a Charity Barn Dance at Corinthians RFC in Galway during the May Bank Holiday weekend.

As Athenry Kilimanjaro Achievers (AKA), they are part of a larger group of 120 students from all around Ireland who hope to raise €100, 000 to save 100 children's lives - and they want to break a new Guinness World Record in the process for the most people to summit Kilimanjaro at one time.

Monies raised will directly help to save 65 Chernobyl children through the Chernobyl heart project by providing cardiac life saving operations to those whose lives remain devastated in the wake of the world's worst ever nuclear disaster that happened in 1986.

In addition 35 children will be saved in the ICU Crumlin as funds are provided for life saving ventilation equipment needed to keep sick children alive post birth.



Presentation College, Athenry students meet with the Taoiseach before their big charity climb of Kilimanjaro in August (from left) Aisling Duffy, Caoimhe Salmon, Enda Kenny, Andrew Dolan, Saoirse McGreal and Tara Morgan.

The novel record attempt follows the first ever Irish school based expeditions to Africa's highest peak that took place in the summer of 2011, when 155 students, teachers and parents from ten schools travelled to Africa and made their way to the summit.

This represented an unprecedented 100% success and the single largest group to successfully summit in the history of the Kilimanjaro National Park.

Irish climber Ian McKeever, who together with his African counterpart Samuel Kinsonga, trained and guided those ten expeditions explained the rationale behind the record attempt this coming summer and just what Irish students are hoping to gain from their experiences in Africa.

"Kilimanjaro is unique - perhaps the only mountain in the world that offers a relatively safe and manageable opportunity to reach the summit of one of the continent's highest peaks.

"Our twelve-week training programme is designed to allow students to grow as people from a physical, psychological and human perspective. It empowers them, teaches them to think for themselves and helps them to most importantly to believe in themselves," he said.

You can donate to help the students through **AIB Athenry, at A/C number 06787189; Sort Code 93 70 10.**



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St Mary's Secondary School, Ballina sets 'Rock the Boat' World Record for Charity

Friday 11th May 2012

St. Mary's Secondary School, Ballina, looks set to win its second official Guinness World Record – after almost 1,600 people “Rocked the Boat” together on Tuesday, May 1.

Hundreds took to the grounds of this famed all-girls secondary school to perform the well-known ‘Rock the Boat’ dance routine – surpassing the 1428-strong record previously set.

The dance event saw young and not-so-young sitting in rows and swaying to the Hues Corporation classic in a row-the-boat motion - for over five minutes!

The Snap, Craicle and Rock 2012 event, was the school's contribution to the annual fundraising campaign, Kellogg's “Fun Raise 4 Kids”, which helps raise money for sick children and teenagers in Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin.

Event coordinator, Annette Leonard, said: “We are delighted that so many people got involved on the day and helped us not only break a record but also, raise vital funds for such a worthy cause.”

School Principal Mrs Sweeney thanked all those who supported the event.

“St. Mary's has a long tradition of fundraising as part of the Fun Raise 4 Kids, and previously, Jump for Joy. We are proud to be the previous winners of the Tom Collins Memorial Trophy on many occasions, for overall national fundraising efforts.

“Every year, the events organised by the Transition Year students and spearheaded by Annette Leonard are innovative, fun and create a real focal point for the students. The Fun Raise 4 Kids is now one of the highlights of the school year,” she said.

Mrs Sweeney formally thanked this year's organisers Annette Leonard, Ciaran Allen and their supporting team. She also extended her gratitude to all those who supported the event, particularly all the local national and secondary schools, the Parents Council and the entire local community for making the event such a success.



While the record attempt is yet to be formally ratified by the Guinness World Records, the school is ‘confident’ it has surpassed the existing record for a Rock the Boat dance formation set in Armagh in last September.

If successful, this will be the second official Guinness World Record set by the school. In 2008, it was awarded its first world record for the most participants to take part in a high-heel race.



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Challenge to Change 2012

Friday 18th May 2012

On Wednesday 10th May students from twenty seven Presentation Primary and Secondary schools, who had participated in this year's '**Challenge to Change**' programme met in the Springhill Hotel in Kilkenny to share their concern about social issues which must be addressed if we are to make our world a place where justice prevails.

Eleven **CEIST** schools were represented this year.

School Projects

Their projects addressed issues such as **Climate Change and its effects of Poverty in East Africa** studied by the students from Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel, and **Poverty in Ireland**, the project chosen by the students from Our Lady's College, Drogheda.

The issues of inequality in education, child labour and gender inequality were also explored in projects undertaken by Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny, who studied **Prejudice and Inequality in Education**; Presentation Secondary School Mitchelstown, with a project entitled **Less Education Leads to more Exploitation**. Presentation de la Salle College, Bagenalstown who looked at **Fair Trade, Fair School, Fair Life**; Presentation Secondary School, Warrenmount with their project **All Work and no Play! Becoming the Person You're Not**, and **Life is Precious, so are Girls** presented by Coláiste Bríde Secondary School Clondalkin.

Links between Presentation schools and India were also very much in evidence. The students from Presentation Secondary School, Ballingarry presented their **India Immersion Project** on their links with, and visit to, Chennai last November as part of the Presentation Sister' Global Education Experience; Presentation Secondary School, Thurles have also developed their **India Outreach Project** with students having recently returned from a visit to Calcutta under the auspices of the Hope Foundation; and the students from Scoil Chríost Rí in Portlaoise, have fundraised to build a school for children in India as their project **The Slums of India a Moral Issue**.

St. Joseph's College Lucan, realising that they have a very interesting level of cultural diversity among the students in their school undertook a project exploring what they could learn about the world and its people from their own school context in a project entitled **Many Cultures, One World**.

It was wonderful to also meet so many primary school pupils who had undertaken such a variety of projects, and each of whom were not only willing to explain what they had done and what they had learnt, but were also determined that this was only the beginning of their work for justice. Their project titles included **Human Rights for You, Me, Everybody; Sustainability in our Community; Famine & Hunger then & Now; Barbie versus Ken** and many more, covering a wide range of topics on various facets of justice and sustainability about which they were passionate.

In addition to displaying their projects, the students were also invited to participate in workshops throughout the day.

Congratulations to all the students involved on their hard work, not only in raising awareness of so many issues of injustice in our world, but also on acting upon the information they have gleaned and responding to the needs of others in such a variety of ways.

Sincere thanks to their teachers, whose commitment, support and encouragement has enabled their pupils to undertake these projects with such enthusiasm, and also to the Presentation S.E. Leadership Team, the Trustees of Challenge to Change.

Above all, we all owe a huge debt of gratitude to Sr Margaret Mary Healy and Liam Kilbride without whose dedication and energy in continuing to promote awareness of justice, human rights and sustainability in such a positive way in Presentation Schools, Challenge to Change would not happen!.

It is wonderful to see so many CEIST / Presentation schools taking part in this programme, and to meet students who have truly discovered that, through their learning, and their response to it, they can be, and are already being 'catalysts for social transformation' in our world.

Photo Album

