



# news from ceist...

28 June 2013

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



### Outgoing CEIST School Principals and Deputy Principals

There have been a number of recent changes in Principal and Deputy Principal positions within our schools. The Trustees would like to extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the outgoing Principals and Deputy Principals for all their hard work and efforts in managing our schools. We offer you all our best wishes in your future endeavours.



#### Outgoing Principals (As Of 28/6/2013)

Mr. Michael Nolan (Killina Presentation Secondary School, Raham, Tullamore), Sr. Bríd Biggane (St. Mary's Secondary School, Mallow), Ms. Sheila McManamly (Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore) and Mr. Liam Rainey (Scoil Mhuire Secondary School, Bunclrana).

#### Outgoing Deputy Principals (As Of 28/6/2013)

Sr. Angela Leahy (Presentation Secondary School, Sexton Street, Limerick), Ms. Nora Bates (Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Drimnagh), Mr. George O'Leary (Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Beaumont), Ms. Carthagna Minnock (Killina Presentation Secondary School, Raham, Tullamore) and Ms. Una Campbell (Cnoc Mhuire, Granard, Co. Longford).

## CEIST News



### CEIST Mobile Web App

CEIST has developed a mobile web app for use on smartphone and tablet devices. The App contains contact details for all CEIST Schools along with location map and directions. The App also features latest news from the Trust, checklist for report submissions to the education office, contact details for CEIST Staff, latest tweets and a listing of our core values.

The Web App can be accessed on Apple devices by going to [m.ceist.ie](http://m.ceist.ie) where you can add the link to your home screen. The App called CEIST is available at present on the [Google Play Store](#) for download to Android mobile devices. We plan to add more content to the App in due course and would be very grateful for your feedback and suggestions. Please email [jwoods@ceist.ie](mailto:jwoods@ceist.ie) or phone 086-0437146.



## Education Matters



### €15 Million Prefab replacement scheme announced by DES

A total of €15 million has been allocated in 2013/14 to replace prefabs and provide permanent resource rooms and classrooms for some 2,650 students.

Forty-six schools, with 115 prefab units, will be offered grants to provide the new facilities.

In 2012 the Department of Education and Skills provided funding to replace over 458 prefab units.

[MORE](#)



## Faith-related Issues



### Catholic Youth Ministry Ireland

Catholic Youth Ministry Ireland is an umbrella body that represents the various sectors of Catholic Youth Ministry in Ireland.

These include diocesan, education (primary, secondary and third level), movements (youth groups and ministries), and religious congregations.

The body sits within the Council for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development (PRAFD) which is part of the Irish Bishops' Conference.

[MORE](#)



### Meeting the challenges of Faith Formation and RE Teaching

Gary Abrahamian, Post-Primary Diocesan Adviser offers some advice for challenges Religious Education teachers encounter in Faith Formation and R.E. teaching.

[MORE](#)

#### Different Voices: Faith in a Secular Age

Marino Institute invites you to join them for a series of talks which will provide a forum for different voices to facilitate our individual and collective discernment towards a better understanding of our humanity and the search for God in our times.

These talks are open to all, particularly teachers, principals and anyone involved in education or catechesis. Members of the public are also welcome.

Click [here](#) to download flyer.

#### CEIST Education Conference 2013

The Annual CEIST Education Conference will be held on **Thursday 26th and Friday 27th September** in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

We will shortly be distributing booking forms and conference agenda to our schools and chairpersons of school boards of management.

Please book early to secure hotel accommodation.

#### 'The Spirit That Sets Us Free' — Overcoming Addiction

The Pioneer Association are hosting their **International Gathering Conference on Saturday and Sunday, 28-29 September 2013.**

The theme of the conference is **'The Spirit That Sets Us Free' - overcoming addiction'** and the venue is All Hallows College, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.

Click [here](#) to download flyer with further information.

#### New Foundations: School 'Ethos' and LGBT Sexualities

Podcasts of the presentations at New Foundations: School 'Ethos' and LGBT Sexualities, which took place in the University of Limerick on the 17th of May are now available for viewing.

Click [here](#) to view podcasts.

#### Inspiring School Initiatives for Bright Minds

Inspire is a range of school initiatives brought to you by the Irish Computer Society and ICS Skills.

Sparking student's innovative and creative spirits, these three different programmes immerse students in the world of technology, engineering and computing.

Click [here](#) if you would like to find out more about these programs.

## News from CEIST Schools



### News from Presentation Secondary School, Listowel

Two students from Presentation Secondary School, Listowel, Co. Kerry were among the 33 National Scratch finalists 2013 who presented their work in the Institute of Technology Tallaght on Sat 25th May.

Meghann Kissane won the competition for her animation entitled 'The Adventures of Jin'. Meghann designed the characters, added background music, converted to the Scratch file format and then wrote the programme to create the adventure.

Presentation Secondary School, Listowel also shared news of their 2013 student of the year award and Transition Year award winners.

[MORE](#)



### St Joseph's Secondary Navan CD and Music Book Launch

St Joseph's Secondary School, Navan are launching **'Here in Christ we Gather'**, a collection of fourteen new pieces of music of liturgical music suitable for choirs and music groups.

The CD and Music Book will be formally launched by Archbishop Eamon Martin at 5pm on Monday, July 1 at the official opening of this year's Irish Church Music Association Summer School.

The 14-piece collection includes communion processions, psalms, reflective pieces, gathering songs, recessionals, and more.

The book carries the complete music score for the compositions, with full choir parts, instrumental lines, and accompaniments.

The accompanying CD features a recording of the collection with chamber choir, instrumentalists, soloists, and organ/piano accompaniment.

[MORE](#)



### Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna Success in Northern Ireland Young Scientist Competition

Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna took part in the Sentinus Northern Ireland Young Scientist competition which was held in the Odyssey Arena in Belfast on the 17th June 2013.

The school had eleven projects entered in the event with some of the students winning awards in their various categories.

Their teacher John Sims was presented with the St. Mary's University College Belfast STEM Teachers Award for his work guiding students in the Northern Ireland Young Scientist competition over the past 10 years.

Well done to all students who represented the school in the competition.

[MORE](#)



### News from Coláiste Muire, Ennis

Coláiste Muire, Ennis, Co. Clare have very kindly shared their latest news and events with CEIST.

The following are a selection of news snippets and photos from the school.

[MORE](#)



### Awards Evening at Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney

On Thursday May 16th, Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan community gathered together to recognise and honour special achievements, both academic and altruistic, by its students with an awards ceremony where there was an impressive display of silverware to be presented!

[MORE](#)



### Catherine McAuley Lecture

St Leo's College, Carlow hosted the fourth annual Catherine McAuley lecture recently.

The lecture was presented by past-pupil Mary Doyle, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Education and Skills.

Mary began her lecture with a series of photographs from her school days in St Catherine's NS and later as a student in St Leo's College, Carlow.

[MORE](#)

## Technical Tips



### Get smart and boost profits with the 40 best business apps

Whether you use apps for work or leisure, coupled with high smartphone and laptop adoption rates, there is an endless amount available to choose.

This article from the Irish Independent explores 40 of the best business apps for communication, collaboration and personal efficiency.

[MORE](#)



# News & Events

## Recent News

### Keywords

### Category

### Month

### Year

SEARCH

## Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

## Some Advice to meet the challenges of Faith Formation and RE Teaching

Tuesday 4th June 2013

Gary Abrahamian, Post-Primary Diocesan Adviser offers some advice below for challenges R.E. teachers encounter in faith formation and R.E. teaching.

### Gary Abrahamian, Post-Primary Diocesan Adviser

Faith formation & R.E. teaching can be challenging at times especially with non-exam senior cycle classes and as the year ends perhaps you might take a moment to reflect on the piece below.

Imagine you are in front of a large class of senior cycle students teaching a lesson on Lent. You are well prepared for this topic.

You have prepared a high quality PowerPoint, fun opening exercise that is connected to the theme, you created a dynamic, ritual prayer experience, and you are armed with multiple strategies to engage the students including the use of a cool video clip, small group reflection questions, and a bit of teaching from you.

You are proud of the lesson you have created. You delve into the topic with great enthusiasm and gusto! You pour all your energy into the session.

Then, it happens.

You look out at the faces staring back at you. All they do is stare. They are not engaged. They are not excited.

At the end of the lesson, you are exhausted! You planned well and you thought that for sure the students would get into the topic.

Yet, for all your planning and energy, you feel like you failed. You begin to wonder if you're any good at this. Then you start to think that you should quit.

The reality is that, for all the energy you put into any lesson, there are times that you don't connect with your intended audience.

There's a reason for that. Here are 3 reasons your students are not ready to be engaged in your R.E. lessons:

1. **Their parents do not engage them in faith conversations or prayer at home.** Most parents rarely have a conversation around faith at home or initiate a family prayer. For many, faith is something that happens in church and church alone. Since parents are the primary influencers, the parish needs to give them tools that will help parents. Until faith is a regular part of family life, it will often be difficult to engage your audience.

2. **They are not interested in learning about the faith.** This is a readiness issue. Sherry Weddell, in her book *Forming Intentional Disciples*, suggests that learning about faith comes after two things happen in people's lives: 1) they have developed trusting and open relationship with other members, and 2) they have had some sort of conversion where they have experienced God in their life in a real and genuine way. These two things lead people to engage in conversations and topics of faith. *Growing an Engaged Church* suggests, "Belonging leads to believing." If that is the case, which I believe it is, you and I need to spend some serious time building community. The other statement I believe to be true is, "Faith seeks understanding." A conversion experience leads to faith. Faith leads to the desire to learn more and understand.

3. **They're tired.** Many teenagers are heavily scheduled with exam classes, tests, sports and extra-curricular activities. But they also spend long hours at night on social network sites and increasingly arrive in school exhausted. Finding a way to bring people out of their hectic world into a more peaceful place of prayer and focus is essential if you are to successfully engage them.

#### Question to ponder over the summer:

What changes can you make that might help students become more engaged in the R.E. lessons & faith formation classes you develop?



# News & Events

## Recent News

### Keywords

### Category

### Month

### Year

## Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

## €15 Million Prefab replacement scheme announced by DES

Monday 10th June 2013

The Minister for Education & Skills, Ruairí Quinn T.D., today announced a further initiative to replace prefab units in schools with permanent accommodation.

A total of €15 million has been allocated in 2013/14 to replace prefabs and provide permanent resource rooms and classrooms for some 2,650 students.

Forty-six schools, with 115 prefab units, will be offered grants to provide the new facilities. In 2012 the Department of Education and Skills provided funding to replace of over 458 prefab units. (Image: Eamonn Farrell/Photocall Ireland)



This prefab replacement investment comes a week after the announcement of 28 major school building projects following the additional €50 million secured by the Department of Education and Skills as part of the Government's "Investing in Infrastructure & Jobs" package. This will see 18 primary schools and 10 post-primary schools replaced or refurbished to provide state-of-the-art classrooms and facilities for over 12,000 students.

Announcing the 2013/14 prefab replacement scheme today the Minister said: "The last prefab replacement initiative was a great success, with over €23.6 million spent to date, 30 projects completed, and a further 100 projects on site."

"Replacing prefabs offers better accommodation for students and savings for schools and the Exchequer, as well as providing construction jobs. So I am delighted that we are building on the Programme for Government commitment to reduce reliance on rented prefabs in schools and extending the benefits to other parts of the country."

Savings of almost €5 million per annum on prefab rental will be achieved under the previous initiative, with a further saving of some €2 million from today's announcement. This announcement will result in the creation of an estimated 300 direct and 60 indirect jobs. A further 1,200 direct and indirect construction jobs are expected to be created at the 28 new school building projects.

Replacing prefabs is part of the Government's €475 million education infrastructure plan for 2014. This Plan will provide modern, high quality accommodation for pupils and teachers and construction related jobs for workers around the country.

The Department's total investment in 28 new school projects will come to €100 million, with the balance coming from the existing €2.2 billion school building budget for 2012 and 2016.

### Further information

The Department's School Building Unit will be writing to approximately 46 schools in the coming days offering grant aid for replacement of each of the rented prefabs on their sites, subject to certain criteria (see below).

#### 2012 Prefab Replacement Initiative

Under the Prefab Replacement Initiative 2012, approval was given to 170 schools to replace 458 prefab units with permanent accommodation. In excess of €42 million was allocated, of which €23.6million paid to date. Thirty projects have been completed, with 100 others on site. The estimated per annum rental savings when all projects have been completed is some €5 million. To date, €467,000 savings on rented accommodation has been achieved.

#### Criteria for selection for inclusion in the 2013/14 initiative

- Prefabs must be rented for a minimum period and be required for the long term i.e. any major project for the school is unlikely to be completed in the short to medium term or, if it is, the construction of the new classrooms will not hinder the extension and will reduce the scope of works required.
- The school site must be sufficiently large to accommodate construction of permanent build while continuing to use rented prefabs.
- Permanent accommodation should be stand alone in the majority of cases, except where only one or two prefabs are being replaced. If schools choose to include a link corridor this and associated works to the existing buildings will be a matter for the school authority.
- Funding must be drawn down within 15 months.
- If the schools choose not to participate in this scheme the Department may move ahead with the purchase of the rented prefabs that are on the schools site.
- The provision of this funding will result in any previous application for an extension being deemed to have been addressed and will be removed from the Department's list of outstanding projects.

#### Schools that do not qualify for this scheme

- Schools currently on the 5 year Capital Programme
- Schools currently in rented prefabs on rented sites which will not be eligible for this scheme
- Schools where their site would not accommodate the construction of new build while the rented prefabs remain on the site
- Schools who would wish to have work done to the existing building as part of any extension.



# News & Events

## Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

## Events

**CEIST Annual Conference**

**E-News**

**Monthly School Feature**

## Catholic Youth Ministry Ireland

Wednesday 12th June 2013



**CYMI** (Catholic Youth Ministry Ireland) is an umbrella body that represents the various sectors of Catholic Youth Ministry in Ireland.

These include diocesan, education (primary, secondary and third level), movements (youth groups and ministries), and religious congregations.

The body sits within the Council for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development (PRAFD) which is part of the Irish Bishops' Conference.

It has evolved from the work of a prior youth committee that developed and promoted a professional framework document for youth ministry in Ireland. The document is Called **Together Making the Difference**.

The primary aim of the body is to provide a network and support structure that promotes and creates a dynamic youth ministry in Ireland, in parishes, schools, universities and dioceses.

This work is carried out through regular meetings of its members to share news and resources, through this creative and influential website [www.cymi.ie](http://www.cymi.ie), through social media, and through active participation in events and activities that promote youth involvement in the life of the Irish Church and beyond.

They encourage you to support this work by informing them of any such events or activities you are organising or know about that would promote an active youth ministry in Ireland within the guidelines of the framework document Called Together Making the Difference.

Please contact [info@cymi.ie](mailto:info@cymi.ie) with such details.

The body meets in committee form a number of times per year and is supported by the staff of the Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development (PRAFD) office in Maynooth.

The committee is chaired by Bishop Donal McKeown (Auxiliary Bishop of Down & Connor) and is made up of representatives of the various sectors.

The current committee is; Bishop Donal McKeown (Chair), Ms Orla McCarthy (Primary Education sector), Ms Anne Kelleher (ATCS- Association of Trusts of Catholic Schools, & CEIST), Fr Michael Kelleher (CORI), Fr Martin Smith (3rd level IT chaplains), Fr Jim Caffery (National Diocesan Youth Directors), Mr Frank McGuinness (National Diocesan Youth Directors), Mr Padraig Swan (Youth Movements), Sr Anne Codd (PRAFD), Ms Julieann Moran (PRAFD).

Click [here](#) to view the Catholic Youth Ministry Ireland website for further information.

# News & Events

## Recent News

### Keywords

### Category

### Month

### Year

SEARCH

## Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

## News from Presentation Secondary School, Listowel

Monday 17th June 2013

Two students from Presentation Secondary School, Listowel, Co. Kerry were among the 33 National Scratch finalists 2013 who presented their work in the Institute of Technology Tallaght on Sat 25th May. In all there were 720 entrants.

Using Scratch, Chloe Daly programmed her own simplified interactive version of the 'Pacman' game after her small cousin found the original version too difficult.

Meghann Kissane won the competition for her animation entitled 'The Adventures of Jin'. Meghann designed the characters, added background music, converted to the Scratch file format and then wrote the programme to create the adventure.

Both projects can be seen online at [www.scratch.ie](http://www.scratch.ie)

Meghann Kissane said that she really enjoyed a module in Chinese language and culture she did during TY.

I decided to base my animation around this. Using some basic phrases and Chinese inspired artistic elements, it tells the story of Jin who goes on an adventure to save his friend Kiko. I also played the music for it.



Pictured above left to right, National Scratch Winner Meghann Kissane and National Finalists Chloe Daly.

## Presentation Secondary School Listowel Award Winners 2013

Presentations in Photography were made at the schools Transition Year Graduation to **Sadhbh Prendiville Brown** who won **The Print of the Year** and **Catherine Carmody** who won the **overall Photographer of the Year Award**.

Congratulations also to **Charlotte Greaney** who received the **Nano Nagle Student of the Year** at the Listowel Presentation Secondary School Awards night.



Pictured above Sadhbh Prendiville Brown and Catherine Carmody with their awards.



Student of the Year 2013, Charlotte Greaney, pictured with her award.

(photos courtesy of John Stack)



#### Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Year

Any

Any

SEARCH

#### Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)



## Success for Lisdoonvarna school in Northern Ireland Young Scientist Competition

Wednesday 26th June 2013

Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna took part in the Sentinus Northern Ireland Young Scientist competition which was held in the Odyssey Arena in Belfast on the 17th June 2013. The school had eleven projects entered in the event.

**Aisling O'Rourke**, who is a fourth year student in Mary Immaculate Secondary School in Lisdoonvarna was the winner of the senior category.

As well as winning the category prize she was also presented with the society of Biology Award for the best biological project at the exhibition.

Her project looked at whether there are differences in the morphology of the leaf of *Geranium sanguineum* (Bloody Cranesbill) located in geographically separated areas.

She also looked at how exposure would affect leaf morphology. She took 3 measurements from each of 2800 leaves. She looked at plants in the Burren and the Aran Islands.

**Deirdre O'Connell** is a third year student at Mary Immaculate Secondary School in Lisdoonvarna. She was awarded the winners prize in the intermediate section. Her project was entitled "Computer and Internet usage among adults in North Clare".

**Rebecca O'Callaghan and Eala Mardell** are two second year students at the school. They were presented with the JCP Consulting Award for the Built Environment.

This was for their project entitled "the Feasibility of Harvesting Rainwater in North Clare". In this project they showed that households could use rainwater to replace some of the treated water entering our houses.

It was not the students that took away awards from the event. Their teacher **John Sims** was presented with the St. Mary's University College Belfast STEM Teachers Award for his work guiding students in the Northern Ireland Young Scientist competition over the past 10 years.

The other projects entered were:

- **Ellen O'Loughlin & Claire Costello** - Do Sea Urchins risk Being Eaten by a Predator to Reach Food?.
- **Ross Duffy** - How effective is a Fulacht Fiadh in cooking food?.
- **Myra McNamara & Eimear Thynne** - Has the Sea an Effect on the Turloughs in North Clare?.
- **Maghnus Hartigan & Ben Kenneally** - The effects of geological substrates on the trophic state of lakes in North Clare.
- **Katie Flanagan & Dilse Guerin** - Factors affecting how slugs sense food.
- **Orlaith Bowen & Martyna Buynowska** - Does a predator affect the clumping behaviour of *Mytilus edulis*?
- **Keelan McMahon** - Does the Size of Population of an Area Affect the Ability of GAA Clubs to Win Trophies? and
- **David Sims** - The Occurrence and Distribution of *Ulva lactuca* and *Enteromorpha intestinalis* in Relation to Water Quality.

#### Photos



Pictured above Aisling O'Rourke receiving the Senior Category Best Project Award.



Deirdre O'Connell receiving Intermediate Category Best Project Award.



John Simms pictured receiving the St Mary's University College Stem Teacher Award.



Rebecca O'Callaghan receiving the JCP Consulting Award for Built Environment



**Recent News**

Keywords

Category  
 --- Select ---

Month      Year  
 Any      Any

- Events**
- CEIST Annual Conference
  - E-News
  - Monthly School Feature



## News from Coláiste Muire, Ennis

Thursday 6th June 2013

[Coláiste Muire, Ennis](#) have very kindly shared their latest news and events with CEIST. The following are a selection of news snippets and photos from the school.

### Cycle Against Suicide

Cycle Against Suicide is an initiative started by Irish entrepreneur, Jim Breen, as a result of his appearance on RTE's The Secret Millionaire programme. The main objective of the Cycle was to raise awareness of the considerable help and supports that are available for anyone battling depression, self harm, at risk of suicide or those bereaved by suicide.



The Cycle took place from Monday April 22nd to Sunday, May 5th. Coláiste Muire was delighted to welcome almost 400 cyclists on their stopover from Limerick to Galway on Saturday 27th April. Thanks to the many businesses in Ennis for providing refreshments, to our Parents Association for co-ordinating activities in the canteen and to our Transition Year Students who assisted our Principal, Jean Pound in the planning beforehand.

### YSI Challenge Winners

Our TY1 class won the Relationships and Sexual Health category with their project Sexication at the Annual Young Social Innovators Showcase held in Citywest Hotel Dublin, on May 8.

### Careersportal National Career Skills Competition

Well done to Ciara Dwyer who was awarded 4th prize in the Transition Year section of Careersportal National Career Skills Competition. Ciara was presented with her prize at an awards ceremony in the Clock Tower, Dept of Education & Skills, Marlborough St, Dublin on 21st May.

She carried out research into Journalism as a Career. Well done also to Meadhbh Grogan, Kate O'Brien and Claire Honan who were highly commended for their investigation into careers in Law, Midwifery and Social Work.



### Art Student of the Year

Myfanwy Balogh Cilia is the recipient of the inaugural Art Student of the Year Award. The perpetual trophy in memory of Ciara Conroy was presented to Myfanwy at the close of an exhibition of students' work in Coláiste Muire's chapel during the month of May.



### Farm Visit

Agricultural Science was introduced as a Senior Cycle option in Coláiste Muire this year. In the final term our Agricultural Science Class visited two separate farms in Tipperary. The first farm was a Dairy farm with a herd size of 96 cows. Students observed at first hand a highly technical automated milking system.

The second farm had a focus on Beef and Sheep production. This had a purpose built classroom for lessons and information sessions on the farm. The trip was most informative and gave the students an insight into a farm from a scientific perspective, a business perspective, a technological perspective and as a lifestyle.



### Volleyball

#### ALL IRELAND DOUBLE SUCCESS FOR COLÁISTE MUIRE ENNIS



Coláiste Muire, Ennis secured its place as an emerging force in girls' schools' volleyball when its players achieved the double at both cadette and senior level in the 2012/13 season. The sport was reintroduced into the school five years ago by coach, Davnet Dwyer and for the past 3 years the girls have been on the brink of success. In 2010 our cadette girls lost out at the quarter final stage and in 2011 our senior girls experienced a similar fate in the semi-final. These disappointments were finally put to rest this season when the girls were comprehensively crowned champions at both senior and cadette level.

#### SENIOR GIRLS

History was created on Dec,6th 2012 when our senior girls team defeated Coláiste Chathail Naofa, Dungarvan in the Girls Division C Final at Belfield. This was the Ennis girls first time to reach the final but undaunted by the occasion the girls secured the title in two straight sets 25-14 and 25-19. On Nov.23rd in UL Arena the girls had shown great strength of character on their way to the final defeating Kiltimagh in the quarter final and Balla in the semi-final. The girls had shown nerves of steel to overcome Balla in the final set which they won 26-24. This experience really stood to them in the final where team captain, Aoife Dwyer also received the MVP Award.

#### CADETTE GIRLS

Encouraged by the success of Coláiste's senior girls the cadette team won all their second round games in Loughrea on Dec.9th. Quarter finals were held in Croom in early February where the girls won out against Mercy Roscommon and Coláiste Chathail Naofa, Dungarvan. On Fri, March 1st the girls emerged victorious in a very closely contested semi-final against Portlaoise College. On Thursday, March 7th our cadette team completed the double securing the Cadette C title when they defeated Mercy Coolock in two straight sets 25-14 and 25-15. The experience of team captain Meghan Fitzgerald and MVP, Gabriella Da Silva who had both played on the senior girls team was evident in the final.

#### JUNIOR GIRLS

Our Junior Girls participated in the junior shield competition where they were unlucky to lose out to Portlaoise college in the All Ireland Quarter Final.

#### FIRST YEAR GIRLS

This year saw the introduction of a 4v4 regional competition for first years. In the final round of competition held in Loughrea on Monday, May 13th our Team 1 won the cup defeating Raphaels 1, Loughrea in the final while our team 2 won the shield defeating Raphaels 2 in the final match.

#### SPIKEBALL

Transition year students from Coláiste Muire completed their spikeball leaders coaching awards and were recently presented with their coaching certificates. This is the third year that the programme has been run in the school and the strength of our first year volleyball teams highlights the success of the programme, where the girls coach spikeball in local primary schools for 6 weeks. To date the girls have linked up with 6 local primary schools.

### Gaelic Football

#### Coláiste Muire, Ennis bridge eleven year gap in Football

Coláiste Muire, Ennis returned to winning ways in style on the football field in 2013, after a gap of eleven years. The school's first year team were recently crowned Clare & Munster A Champions in both blitzes, becoming the first Clare Ladies school team to achieve this double. Their hard work since September was rewarded with a nine game unbeaten run in May 2013.

The team travelled to Mallow on May 1st for the Munster Blitz where they defeated Boherbue Comprehensive (Mallow) and Coláiste Treasa (Kanturk) in the preliminary rounds. In the semi-finals they faced 2012 champions Loretto Fermoy and came through a tight game with 5 points to spare. In the final Coláiste Muire defeated 2012 runners up Coláiste Cholm (Ballinacraig), 6-07 : 2-02 after a close first half. This was the first time a Clare school had won the Munster first year A title.

Coláiste Muire were apprehensive entering the Clare blitz two weeks later where they were grouped with St. Flannan's College (3 time winners), St. Caimins, Kilmihill and Kildysart. The first game was a close affair with Coláiste Muire eventually winning on a 1:05 to 0:01 score line over Flannan's College. They also overcame Kilmihill and Kildysart before accounting for St. Caimins in the last round. They were now through to the Clare final against Kilkee who had impressively won the western division, beating Kiltrush, Scoil Muire Ennistymon, Spanish Point and Rice College.

The final was played in Miltown Malbay on 21st May and Kilkee got the perfect start with an early breakaway goal. Coláiste Muire fought back with a hard earned point only for Kilkee to score one themselves. This spurred on the Ennis girls who found the net after exerting a lot of pressure on Kilkee. But soon after, a speculative ball into the Coláiste Muire goalmouth found the net and Kilkee hit the front again. Before half time Coláiste Muire scored a point to trail by two points at half-time.

With their Munster success rapidly becoming a distant memory the Ennis girls needed to refocus at half-time and get some early scores in the second half. They duly obliged but Kilkee made them work hard for each of their three points and a narrow 1point advantage with five minutes remaining. Kilkee found it hard to get out of their own defence in that second half and the constant pressure paid off for Coláiste Muire with two late goals to seal the County title and a famous double: **Clare and Munster A First Year champions 2013.**



### Easter Camp to China

Coláiste Muire introduced Chinese as a subject in Transition Year in September 2013. The teaching of Chinese was facilitated by the Confucius Institute in UCC. Two of our TY students, Alice Mahony and Aoife Hurley were among 80 students selected to visit Shanghai, China from 3rd to 16th April as part of the Confucius Institute's Easter Camp. The visit provided both students with first hand experience of Chinese language and culture.



### Geography Fieldwork

As part of our TY Geography programme students undertook a study of Coastal erosion on 15th & 17th April in Lahinch and Liscannor.

The emphasis was on students doing practical work themselves, using equipment and collecting data.

The data collected was analysed to ensure fuller understanding under the guidance of Colin Bunce from the Burren Outdoor Education Centre.



### Visit to Criminal Courts of Justice and Kilmainham Gaol

Both of our TY classes visited the Criminal Courts of Justice on the morning of May 27th. This visit was organised by the Courts Service.

A new departure this year was the staging of a Mock Trial for both classes. The trial was facilitated by a Barrister.

Students also had the opportunity to sit in on various court cases in the complex.

In the afternoon students had a guided tour of Kilmainham Gaol. This was facilitated by Heritage Ireland. This visit takes place annually as part of our TY History programme. To conclude students spent time in Kilmainham's adjoining museum.

### On being an Archaeologist for a day

John Rattigan Curator of Clare Museum offers this Heritage programme to interested Ennis schools annually.

Following a most interesting and informative presentation by an Archaeologist on the 9th & 16th May students had the chance to examine artefacts up close and learn the scientific techniques used by Archaeologists for dating finds, testing soil and extracting artefacts from the ground through fun hands on experiments.



### Mini Sumo Robot Challenge

Three teams from our 4th year Technology class took part in this competition in Galway Education Centre on 22 April.

Each team designed and constructed a Mini Sumo robot.

Well done to Isadora de Melo Oliveira, Aoife Shanahan and Leona Murphy who reached the semi final.

### Cork Choral Festival

Our school choir of 113 students participated in the Annual Cork Choral Festival on Thursday 1st May. They were placed 5th in this All Ireland competition for Equal Voice Choirs.



# News & Events

## Recent News

### Keywords

### Category

--- Select ---

### Month

Any

### Year

Any

SEARCH

## Events

### CEIST Annual Conference

### E-News

### Monthly School Feature



## Awards Evening at Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney

Monday 24th June 2013

On Thursday May 16th, Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan community gathered together to recognise and honour special achievements, both academic and altruistic, by its students with an Awards ceremony where there was an impressive display of silverware to be presented.

In welcoming the assembled guests who numbered among them Chairpersons of the Board of Management & Parents Association, members of the business community, parents, teachers & students, Principal, Mr Gerard McGuill complimented the young people on their successes and their participation "it is not only school achievements that we acknowledge tonight.

Our students participate and compete at county, provincial and national levels. In doing so they achieve great success but it is not only the victories that we recognise but also the manner of their participation.

The hallmark of students from Our Lady's on all these stages is their courtesy, consideration and basic good manners.

For this above all else I commend all students who have represented our school over the last 9 months. Their successes, individual and team will be recognised as the ceremony continues". Mr McGuill then introduced, Ms Rosaleen McNicholas, co-ordinator of the evening who officiated over the general awards section.

### Presentation of Cups

The breadth and depth of the students' successes and achievements were mirrored in the many cups being presented on the night.

The many and varied programmes and opportunities on offer to students at Our Lady's were reflected in the awards being presented.

Two groups of students were singled out for special mention: the 24 school prefects who have been pillars of the school community and the 24 Peer Support students who give unselfishly of their time to counsel and befriend any vulnerable junior students and to ease the transition from Primary to Secondary school for 1st Years.

### Sport

In introducing the Sports section, Deputy Principal, Mr Finbarr Brohan commented " sport provides an important counter balance to the academic side of school life, it is where friendships are made and the ability to work with and for others is cultivated.

The past year has been one of the busiest and most successful years ever in terms of sport in Our Lady's. It is important to remember that while a number of individuals are being honoured tonight they are indebted to their colleagues for their success.

The students also owe a huge debt to all our staff who so willingly give of their own time to coach and prepare the school teams. A welcome addition to our sports programme this year was athletics in which a number of students competed under the guidance of Mr. Mulroe". Mr Brohan wrapped up the sports section by extending good wishes to our girl's U14 football team and their management, Ms. Bolger and Mr Graham in their Ulster final on Tuesday 21st May against Castlewellingan.

### Academic Achievements

Principal, Mr Gerard McGuill, returned to the podium to conduct the final section of the Awards Evening – Academic achievements. In this section there were no less than fifteen cups being presented and Mr McGuill congratulated the young people on their extraordinary talents and their commitment to excellence.

Two new cups had been added this year, the Junior and Senior Cups for Excellence in German, sponsored by the German/Swiss Embassy.

Mr John Sheridan of Castleguard Security Services Ltd, sponsor of the Gaelic Jerseys was on hand to present the Senior GAA Player of the Year.

Before handing over to traditional group, Spraoi, Mr McGuill expressed his thanks to the many people involved in the organization of the evening, to the sponsors, parents, staff and students, without whom there would be no awards evening.

The programme for the evening was interspersed throughout with some very talented performances from the Music and Drama departments in the school. Music interludes were provided by some hauntingly beautiful performances from Spraoi, the traditional group who travelled to North Wales to compete in the internationally renowned Eistedfodd, also from the school choir who are as much at home in the National Concert Dublin as our own Concert Hall!

Two scenes from the highly-acclaimed 'Blood Brothers' allowed the cast of Sean McBennett, Cormac McKenna, Ellen Quinn, Melissa McMahon, Shamara O'Flaherty Daly, Tomasina McGinnity & Logan McQuillan show why they packed the Concert Hall and Drumhownan Community Centre in recent weeks.

This very special evening concluded with light refreshments in the GPA.

### Award Winners 2013

#### Arts, Literary & Student Welfare Awards:

Prefects: Megan Atkinson, Lorna Bishop, Niamh Boyle, Laura Brohan, Aoife Connolly, Fiona Cummins, Eimear Forde, Mark Gormley, Barry Hanratty, Joey Hughes, Clodhna Kelly, Mark Magee, Kerrie McArdle, Mark McCabe, Sean McCahey, Rachel McCann, Cillian McDonald, Eimear McEneaney, Aisling McGinn, Ross McGinn, Emma McKenna, Sarah Murray, Donatas Slakaitis, Niall Walsh.

**Junior Poetry Bank of Ireland Cup:** 1st Joshua Kelly, 2nd Michelle Mohan **Senior Poetry Parents' Association Cup:** 1st Aisling Hughes, 2nd Danielle Dickson **Drama: Senior: Best Actor:** Eimear Quinn, **Junior: Best Male Actor: Joint Award:** Sean McBennett & Cormac McKenna, **Best Female Actor:** Tomasina McGinnity **Performing Arts Award:** Gabriele Ajauskaite **Junior Short Story Credit Union Cup:** Dearbhaille Farrell, 2nd Elana McKenna. **Senior Short Story Castlecool Cup:** Joint 1st Laura Brohan & Eimear Quinn. **Junior Music Performance Award:** Stephen McMahon, Senior Music Performance Award: Lisa McCabe

**Student Council Awards (6th Years):** Megan Atkinson, Kerri McArdle, Mark McCabe, Sean McCahey, Michaela McQuaid.

**Peer Support Award:** Laura Brohan, Fiona Cummins, Anthony Cunningham, Barry Duffy, Nicola Duffy, Aoife Durkin, Barry Hanratty, Aaron Kelly, Michelle Kerr, Steven Kingham, Dasha Kovalenko, Rachel Malone, Kerri McArdle, Sean McCahey, Rachel McCann, Aisling McGinn, Emma McKearney, Emma McKenna, Naomhe McNally, Emma Mooney, Laura Murray, Sarah Murray, Hannah O'Brennan & Josh Sherry.

### Sport Awards:

**Junior Basketball Awards:** Brandon Rice, Orlaith Maguire. **Senior Basketball Awards:** Mark Magee, Olga Tavey **Junior Ladies GAA Award:** Muireann Atkinson, **Senior Ladies GAA Award McElroy Shield:** Alanna O'Donoghue **U-14 GAA Award (Boys) Oram GFC Cup:** Frank Connolly **U-16 GAA Award Faughs Cup:** Barry Kerr **Senior GAA Player of the Year (Castleguard Security Services):** David McMahon. **Junior Sportsperson of the Year Declan Loughman Cup:** Eoin McKearney **Senior Sportsperson of the Year Philip Brady Cup:** Emma McKenna

**U-20 B Ulster Champions GAA Award – Team:** Emma Forde, Alanagh McElroy, Emma McKenna, Bronagh Sheridan, Elaine McKernan, Alanna O'Donoghue, Aine McElroy, Muireann Atkinson, Aoife Duffy, Michaela McQuaid, Chloe Woods, Roisin Finnegan, Niamh Callan, Megan Atkinson, Ellen Tibby, Michaela Curtis, Michaela McCabe, Niamh McBennett, Aoife Connolly, Eimear Finnegan, Blaitthin Bishop, Cliona McDonald.

### Academic Awards:

**LCVP Award:** Laura Murray. **Art: Senior:** Bronagh Maguire, **Junior:** Orlaith Maguire, **JC Project:** Ronan Merrick. **Music Award Academic: Senior:** Kerri McArdle, **Junior:** Colm Murray **Home Economics Award: Senior (McArdle Meats Cup):** Hannah Leonard, **Junior (Ginger C Cup):** Emma McShane, **JCSP: (Ginger C Cup)** Ronan O'Reilly. **Junior History Award:** Andrew McMahon. **Music Awards: Junior:** Pierce Callaghan, **Senior: Joint Recipients:** Jamie Bishop & Shay Sweeney, **Science Awards: Junior:** Kavisha Yatagampitiya, **Junior German Award:** Colm Murray, **Fintan Traynor Memorial Cup for Junior Business Studies:** Romans Serskis. **Junior Cert 2012 Awards:** Muireann Atkinson, Sophie Brennan, Ryan Callan, Christopher Carragher, Mark Connolly, Saoimhe Courtney, Daniele Dickson, Noah Donnelly, Aoife Duffy, Annie Hannaway, Emma Heavin, David Hughes, Neasa Kelly, Gary Loughran, Eanna Malone, Karen Markey, Cliona McDonald, Barry McGinn, Muireann McHugh, Katie McNally, Robert Metcalfe, Eimear Quinn, Jamie Walshe, Chloe Woods. **Best Junior Cert 2012:** Emma Heavin & Eimear Quinn.

**Catherine Conway Cup for Excellence in Chemistry:** Emma Mooney  
**Carna Transport Cup for Excellence in Physics:** Hannah O'Brennan  
**Parents Association Cup for Excellence in Maths:** Hannah O'Brennan  
**Fr Frank McKenna Memorial Award (for Leaving Cert Maths & Physics):** Fearghal Donaghy  
**Sr Margaret Lyons Cup for Senior Geography:** Eimear McEneaney  
**Cooltrim Cup for Business:** Laura Brohan  
**Callaghan Cup for Excellence in Irish:** Laura Brohan  
**Nogent Sur Vernisson Cup for Excellence in French:** Sean McCahey  
**German/Swiss Embassy Cup for Excellence in German:** Emma McKearney  
**O'DuFaigh Cup for Excellence in History:** Joey Hughes  
**Board of Management Cup for Excellence in English:** Emma McKearney  
**Academic Achievement Award/Anthony Gallen Cup:** Fearghal Donaghy  
**Student of the Year Nominees:** Laura Brohan, Barry Hanratty, Joey Hughes, Eimear McEneaney & Emma McKenna  
**Gerald F Gillanders Student of the Year 2013:** Laura Brohan



Pictured above are the four nominees for the Student of the Year award Emma McKenna, Eimear McEneaney, Joey Hughes and Barry Hanratty, along with the winner Laura Brohan, Mr McGuill, Mr Brohan and sixth year, Year Head Mr Kelly.



**Class of 2013:** Pictured above are the Leaving Cert students on their last day of school in Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney.



# News & Events

## Recent News

### Keywords

### Category

### Month

### Year

SEARCH

## Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

## Catherine McAuley Lecture

Wednesday 5th June 2013

St Leo's College, Carlow hosted the fourth annual Catherine McAuley lecture recently.

The lecture was presented by past-pupil Mary Doyle Deputy Secretary of the Department of Education and Skills.

Mary began her lecture with a series of photographs from her school days in St Catherine's NS and later as a student in St Leo's College, Carlow.

Mary was delighted that a number of her school friends were in the audience to share these memories.

Having taken a stroll down memory lane, Mary then introduced the theme at her lecture namely "**Continuity and change in Irish Education**".

She delivered an impressive analysis of the rate of participation of young Irish girls in education since 1933. She paid a wonderful homage to the women in her own family background and their experiences with education. She also thanked her husband Matt, who was in the audience, for his unwavering support throughout her career.

There was a large presence of staff, students and members of the Mercy community for the lecture.

Mary was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a piece of jewellery depicting key events in her life by school Principal, Clare Ryan.



Pictured above Mary Doyle, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Education and Skills and past pupil of St Leo's College, Carlow with Principal, Clare Ryan.