

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



ESRI Research on School Funding

In a study entitled Governance and Funding of Voluntary Secondary Schools in Ireland (2013) by Dr. Merike Dermody and Prof. Emer Smyth, the ESRI has published research findings on how schools in the various post-primary sectors are funded, paying particular attention to the funding of voluntary secondary schools.



The research demonstrates the disparities in the levels of State funding as well as the reliance on voluntary contributions from parents.

In its conclusions the report indicates possible implications arising from the research for trustee bodies.

Click on 'More' link below to view the full report, summary booklet and press release on the research carried out.

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Education Matters



Global Schoolroom Teacher Recruitment 2014

Global Schoolroom provides a unique opportunity for teachers in Ireland and abroad to share educational experience and contribute to each other's professional development.

It also offers the chance to make a real and lasting difference to the quality of education being delivered so helping eradicate poverty, promote economic development and build sustainable communities.

Global Schoolroom are now recruiting primary and secondary teachers from Ireland for their July 2014 programmes.

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Launch of Association of Trustees of Catholic Schools (ATCS) Website

The website of the Association of Trustees of Catholic Schools (ATCS) went live on Monday 21st October. The website was officially launched at the AGM of the Association at the Emmaus Centre in Swords, County Dublin.

The Association of Trustees of Catholic Schools (ATCS) serves the interests of Catholic Patrons (Dioceses, Religious Congregations and Lay Trusts and Trustees) in primary and second level schools.

The Association represents the collective interests of Patrons and Trustees while respecting individual differences in terms of context and structures.

The Caroline Foundation

The Caroline Foundation has been established in memory of Caroline Dwyer-Hickey to support the work of Professor John Crown and the Cancer Clinical Research Trust (CCRT) - see [www.ccrt.ie](#) for more information.

Based in St Vincent's Hospital but also operating from Dublin City University and University College Dublin, the CCRT is devoted to furthering the developments of new treatments for cancer. It supports research both in the lab and at the cancer patient's bed-side, an integrated programme of investigation.

View our [website article](#) for further information on this very worthwhile initiative.

Fundraising Concert

Parents' Associations from St Paul's Special School & Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont are organising a Fundraising Concert on November 8th next at 8pm in Our Lady of Mercy College.

The Airport Police Band, Mercy College Chamber Choir & Soloists and the Garda Female Choir will perform.

Tickets (€8/€5) are available from the schools.

University College Cork to host major conference on Pope John Paul II

This conference being held in University College Cork on Saturday 9 November 2013, in the Boole IV lecture theatre.

A number of authorities from both Ireland and Poland will be discussing this important subject from a variety of interesting perspectives.

The conference is free and open to all who wish to attend.

View [Press Release](#), [Poster](#) and [Programme](#).

Community Cenacolo

Community Cenacolo is a Catholic community that helps people overcome addictions. We are based on a 30 acre farm in Knock, Co.Mayo.

The Community was started by an Italian nun, Mother Elvira, in 1963 and currently has 60 houses worldwide, accommodating over 2,000 people. The Community life is one of friendship, prayer and work.

Click [here](#) for further information on this community.

Profile Your News on CEIST E-News and Website!

We would be delighted to profile all the good things happening in our schools.

If you have any news snippets or photos to share please pass on to John Woods in CEIST, via e-mail jwoods@ceist.ie or you can call me on **086-0437146**.

News from CEIST Schools



Mercy Secondary School, Inchicore, Win Repak/An Taisce Recycling Secondary School of the Year!

Congratulations to Mercy Secondary School, Inchicore, Dublin on winning the Repak/An Taisce Recycling Secondary School of the Year Award.

The school made huge reductions in their general waste, reducing output by approximately 73%. Their recycling efforts led to a significant increase of 22% and they went from zero composting to 24L in 15 days. There was also a two thirds reduction in printer ink costs reflecting a move away from paper based communications.

The school exceeded their target of reducing total waste levels by 25%.

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News from Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore

The following is an account of recent news in Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore, which the school very kindly shared with CEIST.

September was a very busy month with the excellent Junior results being followed up by a few days in the gaelteach for our Transition Year students. Mary O'Rourke came to visit and give a talk.

On the 28th September members of our school choir and their teachers were thrilled to perform at the CEIST Annual Education conference in Athlone.

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St Mary's Mallow Transition Year Youth Gathering at Knock

Twenty six students from St Mary's Mallow Secondary School, Co. Cork and their Religious Education teachers; Ms Carmel Curtin and Sr. Anne Maria headed on pilgrimage to Knock recently for a unique event to celebrate the Year of Faith.

For many of the students it was their first visit to this special holy place.

Over 3000 students gathered to be part of a day of prayer, reflection and celebration of faith.

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Presentation Secondary School Ballingarry Turns the Sod on New School Building

Last Friday at Presentation Secondary School, Ballingarry, the scene was one of great joy as the sod was turned on phase one of the E4.8 million new school building and refurbishment plan for the school.

Principal Ms Angela Cahill was delighted to welcome representatives from Architects Blissett & O'Donoghue, Quantity Surveyors McCullagh, Lupton, Quinn and Kilcawley Construction along with past and present members of the Board of Management and Parents Council of the school, former Principal Mr Tom Fennessey, teachers, students, CEO of CEIST Anne Kelleher and school Chaplain Fr Derry Quirk who performed a celebratory liturgy for the "turning of the sod" ceremony.

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Bi-Centenary Celebration in Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel

The Presentation Community in Clonmel are celebrating 200 years of Presentation Education in Clonmel this year.

A wonderful celebration took place on October 4th when all the pupils of Presentation Primary and Secondary schools, gathered to participate in a moving and memorable Mass of Thanksgiving to mark the Bi-Centenary of the arrival of the Presentation Sisters to the town.

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Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Drimnagh Opening Morning - Gathering

Thursday the 17th October was a busy but special day for Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School Drimnagh.

The school decided to hold an open morning for the students in the local primary schools followed by their own 'Gathering' event in the afternoon in light of the year that is in it. Past principals, teachers and pupils were invited back especially for the event.

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Presentation Secondary School, Thurles Reunion 2013

What is rare is wonderful. September 21st saw Presentation, Thurles open their doors to over 730 people offering past pupils a rare opportunity to meet with friends they had not seen in years and walk the corridors of their Alma Mater.

From the eldest past pupil, Mary Bergin, who turns ninety shortly, representing the graduating class of 1941 to Rachel Browne, who visited the school on a whirlwind visit with her new husband Colin, a wonderful day was had by all.

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St. Mary's Secondary School Nenagh Celebrate Opening of New Classrooms

The entire school community came together to celebrate the opening of four new classrooms at St. Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, which was followed by a beautiful liturgy in the Church.

St. Mary's has a rich Faith heritage and is renowned across the region, for its excellence in teaching & learning.

The Mercy sisters have given selflessly to the school since its inception in 1887 and the successive Boards of Management have built on this solid foundation over the years.

MORE >



Bishop Denis Nulty Visits Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise

Bishop Denis Nulty visited Scoil Chríost Rí, Secondary School in Portlaoise recently to bless the new prayer room and celebrate the opening year mass.

The school principal welcomed Bishop Denis and noted he was the first Bishop to visit the school which was a great honour.

Bishop Denis received a very warm welcome from the school community and was unsurprisingly impressed by the atmosphere and spirit which permeates the school.

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Bishop of Kerry, Ray Browne Celebrates Mercy Day at Mercy Mounthawk

On Mercy Day the staff, students, parents and members of the school community in Mercy Mounthawk joined to celebrate Mercy Day – the foundation day of the school.

It is the annual opportunity for the school to recognise in a special way the ethos of mercy that is at the heart of education in Mounthawk and this was celebrated with a mass for the students in the school gym.

This year, the school community was joined by the newly appointed Bishop of Kerry, Ray Browne to lead the celebration.

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First Green Flag for Presentation Secondary School, Waterford

Presentation Secondary School held their first ever Green Flag raising ceremony on Monday 21st October.

Students at the school had been working on environmental issues for many years and the school was awarded the title of 'Waterford's Tidiest Secondary School' at the 2012 Waterford City Council Environment Awards.

When the new school building was completed in January 2012 it was seen by management, staff and students as an ideal opportunity to begin working towards the Litter and Waste Green Flag.

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St Mary's Secondary School Ballina Students Attend Knock Youth Gathering

On Friday 4th October 2013 Transition Year students from many CEIST schools travelled to Knock to join 5,000 students from all over Ireland at a Youth Gathering to celebrate the Year of Faith.

The theme of the gathering was chosen from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians – (2 Cor. 5:20). **"We are ambassadors for Christ"**.

Mass was celebrated by the Papal Nuncio, His Excellency, Archbishop Charles Brown, who introduced the students to YOCAT.

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FRIENDSHIP Week at Christ King Girls' Secondary School, Cork

As part of the holistic approach to education, Christ King Girls' Secondary School, Cork, approaches each school year with a certain theme in mind.

This year, they decided to dwell on what FRIENDSHIP means to all within the school community. In tandem with the theme they devoted a week where there is a cross curricular approach.

Subjects like Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), CSPE and Health Education were used to tease out the value of friendship.

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Recent News from Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont

Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont, Dublin have kindly shared the following news snippets.

The school had a visit from members of the Dublin GAA team that won the All-Ireland Final and they brought along the Sam Maguire cup with them.

Congratulations to Fiona Boyle who achieved 10 honours in her JC and to Charlotte Shireen Samuel who won the award for best LC results.

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ESRI Research on School Funding

Wednesday 23rd October 2013



In a study entitled Governance and Funding of Voluntary Secondary Schools in Ireland (2013) by Merike Dermody and Emer Smyth, the ESRI has published research findings on how schools in the various post-primary sectors are funded, paying particular attention to the funding of voluntary secondary schools.

The research demonstrates the disparities in the levels of State funding as well as the reliance on voluntary contributions from parents.

In its conclusions the report indicates possible implications arising from the research for trustee bodies.

Report and Press Release

[Governance and Funding of Voluntary Secondary Schools in Ireland](#)

[Press Release](#)

[ESRI Report - Summary Booklet](#)



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Global Schoolroom Teacher Recruitment 2014

Wednesday 30th October 2013



"The most important thing I have done in my 30 year teaching career"?
Maurice O'Mahony, Principal, Youghal, Co Cork

Next summer Global Schoolroom will once again be offering teachers a fascinating opportunity to leave Ireland behind for the month of July and travel to Northeast India to work with teachers there.

This gives teachers from Ireland a unique way to develop their own teaching skills while helping their colleagues overseas to do the same.

It also offers the time to do a small local study, facilitated by the University of Limerick, so that teachers can share what they've learned with their own pupils when they get back home.

In summary, Global Schoolroom provides a unique opportunity for teachers in Ireland and abroad to share educational experience and contribute to each other's professional development. It also offers the chance to make a real and lasting difference to the quality of education being delivered so helping eradicate poverty, promote economic development and build sustainable communities.

We are now recruiting primary and secondary teachers from Ireland for our July 2014 programmes.

Those selected will spend 4 weeks working as tutors with Indian teachers on a Diploma in Teacher Education accredited by University College Dublin and Assam Don Bosco University.

For the Indian teachers, this forms part of a 3-year programme. Meanwhile the teachers from Ireland can look forward to a truly rewarding and unforgettable experience – many describe it afterwards as the highlight of their teaching career!

Many also find that the sharing of experience and the reflection on practice that this requires, reinvigorates their own teaching leading to significant professional development.

If you would like to apply for a place on Global Schoolroom's 2014 programme simply log on to www.globalschoolroom.net to find out more about the programme and [click here](#) to download the application form.

If you require further details just call **01-8456901** or email info@globalschoolroom.net.

Closing date for applications is **Friday, November 22, 2013**. Interviews are scheduled to take place in Dublin in December. We look forward to hearing from you.

Global Schoolroom interview with CEO Dr. Garret Campbell and Professor Bairbre Redmond



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Mercy Secondary School, Inchicore, Dublin Win Repak/An Taisce Recycling Secondary School of the Year!

Monday 21st October 2013



Repak/An Taisce Recycling Secondary School of the Year

Winner: Mercy College, Inchicore, Dublin 8

Achievement: 73% reduction in landfill waste

Mercy Secondary School, Inchicore is a school based in Dublin City with 26 teachers and 200 students. Their committee consists of students from every year, teachers, caretaking staff and parents. Their environmental review was extremely thorough, carrying out all essential actions and recommended actions.

The school made huge reductions in their general waste, reducing output by approximately 73%. Their recycling efforts led to a significant increase of 22% and they went from zero composting to 24L in 15 days. There was also a two thirds reduction in printer ink costs reflecting a move away from paper based communications.

The school exceeded their target of reducing total waste levels by 25%. Some of the key initiatives they put into place to reduce levels of litter and waste include:

- Encouraging the reuse of bottles or alternative drinking containers.
- Using fewer cartons, drink packs, fizzy drink bottles.
- Using a lunchbox instead of bags and packaging.
- Planning lunch the evening before to avoid buying extra packaging on the way to school.
- When using paper in any subjects particularly in subjects like Art and IT, the scraps are kept to be used again for other projects.
- Homework moved to e-mail or delivered electronically?
- A monthly rubbish free day.
- Improved awareness for bin usage: improved signage and monitored large bins during break times.
- Reinforcing the use of composting.
- Monitoring of waste, litter warden rotas and frequent surveys to monitor awareness.



They quantified the programme's success through data from waste trends, ink cartridge usage trends, litter problem areas, paper usage trends, Green-Schools Action Day and the Litter Warden rota.

The school's curriculum links spanned all years and covered topics such as, stewardship, environmental impact of waste, awareness raising, litter policy at the school and waste and materials usage trends at the school.

The school involved the wider community throughout their programme, with Homebase supporting them in their Millennium Garden Make-over initiative and the Home-School Liaison Officer bringing the Green-Schools message to families of students.

Their programme has been a great success with everyone playing their part, congratulations from CEIST to Mercy Secondary School, Inchicore on this wonderful work carried out in the school and on winning this prestigious award.



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News from Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore

Tuesday 29th October 2013



The following is an account of recent news in [Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore](#), which the school very kindly shared with CEIST.

September was a very busy month with the excellent Junior results being followed up by a few days in the gaelteacht for our Transition Year students. Mary O'Rourke came to visit and give a talk.

On the 28th September members of our school choir and their teachers were thrilled to perform at the CEIST Annual Education conference in Athlone.

In the first week of October we celebrated our first year mass, there was a huge attendance and the girls received a photo of their whole year group.

Offaly won the World Relay Marathon challenge and 10 of our first years were part of the winning team on 23rd of October.

Transition Years have been appointed to their positions in their respective mini-companies and with over 100 Transition Year students in school entrepreneurship is alive and well!

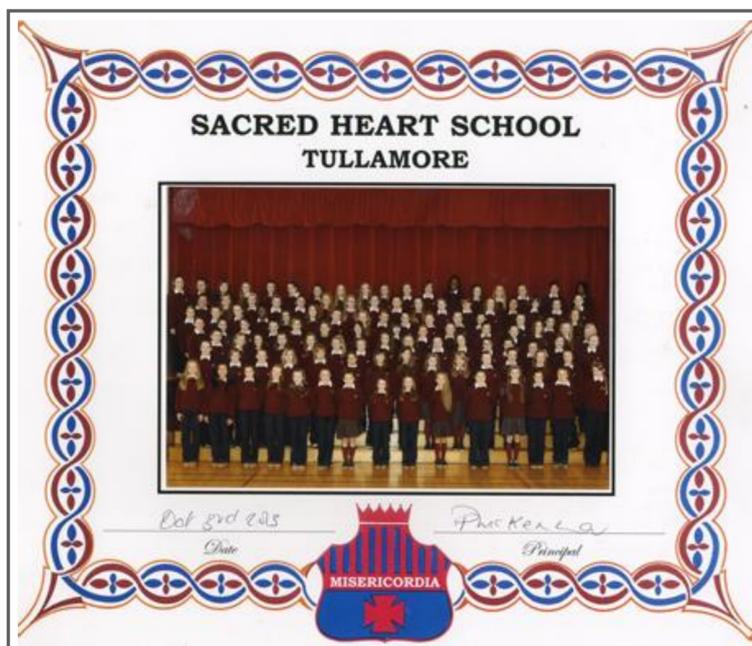
They also took part in a sponsored walk and were delighted the weather was good.

45 students along with 6 teachers will spend some 5 days during midterm in France-all are excited to visit Tours, Paris and Euro Disney.

Sheila McManamly's retirement was marked by a special dinner, staff past and present enjoyed the night and wish Sheila well for the future.

Sheila was also presented with an award from CEIST in recognition of her outstanding service to the school at the CEIST Annual Education Conference in Athlone.

The SHS community was delighted to congratulate Orla Healy on being appointed Deputy Principal in a permanent capacity.





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St Mary's Mallow Transition Year Youth Gathering at Knock

Thursday 31st October 2013



"We are ambassadors for Christ" ~Theme for TY Youth Gathering in Knock.

Twenty six students from [St Mary's Mallow Secondary School, Co. Cork](#) and their Religious Education teachers; Ms Carmel Curtin and Sr. Anne Maria headed on pilgrimage to Knock recently for a unique event to celebrate the Year of Faith.

For many of the students it was their first visit to this special holy place.

Over 3000 students gathered to be part of a day of prayer, reflection and celebration of faith. On arrival each school was directed to their place in the Basilica.

The opening hour was one of witnessing to the faith. One of the speakers, Ger Brennan who is a soccer goalkeeper from Galway spoke of his conversion experience at Knock where his faith became very important to him. He outlined how this awareness and relationship with God has made a huge difference in his life.

Sr. Anna from Mother Teresa Missionaries of Charity spoke about her current work in Liverpool. Their home/convent is surrounded by nine nightclubs!

They are not short of dance music at night time! They could easily complain, grumble and be bitter about their noisy neighbours. Instead they have a presence in their chapel as the young people head to the clubs on weekend nights. They are gently invited to come in and light a candle.

The result has been amazing. The floor of their chapel at weekend nights gets walked on by lots of high heels, by people of no belief, by those who are searching and by those who would not normally get such a chance. They light a candle and can stay for as short or as long as they want.

The sacrament of reconciliation was available during lunchtime. After lunch the students did the Stations of the Cross.

Finally the Eucharist was celebrated by the Papal Nuncio and four other bishops as well as many priests. The Anointing of the Sick and Benediction was also part of the Mass.

There was a special treat for the students when they received a special message from Pope Francis encouraging them to be ambassadors for Christ.

Each student there received their own personal copy of YOUCAT (youth catechism) a rosary beads and the miraculous medal. We hope that these gifts will help to strengthen the faith of our students.

The students were very happy with their trip to Knock and many expressed how moved they were by the experience.



Stations of the Cross Procession at Knock

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Presentation Secondary School Ballingarry Turns the Sod on New School Building

Friday 18th October 2013

Last Friday at Presentation Secondary School, Ballingarry, the scene was one of great joy as the sod was turned on phase one of the E4.8 million new school building and refurbishment plan for the school.

Principal Ms Angela Cahill was delighted to welcome representatives from Architects Bluett & O'Donoghue, Quantity Surveyors McCullagh, Lupton, Quinn and Kilcawley Construction along with past and present members of the Board of Management and Parents Council of the school, former Principal Mr Tom Fennessey, teachers, students, CEO of CEIST Anne Kelleher and school Chaplain Fr Derry Quirke who performed a celebratory liturgy for the "turning of the sod" ceremony.



Pictured above **Front (L-R)** Pat O Halloran (Head Boy), Sr Patricia Wall (Former Principal), Lorna Walsh (Head Girl), Shane McCullagh (Quantity Surveyor), Tom Simpson (Former Chair BoM), Sr. Fidelis Purcell (Chairperson BoM), Tom Fennessey (Former Principal), Anne Kelleher (CEO CEIST), Abigeal Maher (2nd Year), Martina Creedon (Former Deputy Principal), Sr.Anne Nevin (Former Principal), Angela Cahill (Principal).

Back(L-R) Aidan Murphy(Clerk of Works), Fergal Meagher (Manager), Sean McManus (Foreman), Brendan Henry (Managing Director Kilcawley Construction), Peter Bluett(Architect), Fr.Derry Quirke PP (Chaplain), Mary Hennessy-Ryan (Former Deputy Principal), Ger Dowling (Deputy Principal)

For former Chairman of the Board of Management, Mr Tom Simpson it was a particularly proud day as he said that he and Mr Fennessey, along with many members of the Board of Management, spent many years trying to secure planning and funding for the project.

Mr Fennessey, along with current Head Girl Lorna Walsh and Head Boy Pat O'Halloran, had the honour of turning the sod on the project to the sound of much applause from the many students and well wishers present.

Mr Peter Bluett gave a brief overview of the new building and work schedule. Work began in July and it is hoped that phase one, which is the new building, will be finished in July 2014. The new building will contain a science lab, specialist rooms for art, music, language and technology along with a DCG room, offices, a sick room and an oratory.

The new school will also contain a state of the art gym and fitness suite which will be open to the public as well as students. Ms Cahill hopes that the new school and gym will enhance "education in the area, social events, clubs and new ventures in a village that is developing with a new make-over and a revived spirit".

Phase two, which will begin on the completion of phase one next July, will see the refurbishment of current school building, which was built in 1983.

The school is known locally as "the convent" which reflects the history of the school. It was founded in 1871 by the Presentation Sisters and chairperson of the current Board of Management, Sr Fidelis Purcell, who bought some acorns with her to the ceremony as the oak tree is the symbol of the Presentation Sisters and the mantle of from acorns great oak trees grow was mentioned more than once on the day as the school has a reputation for excellence in education which really came to the fore with the tremendous Leaving Certificate results in the school this year.

Ms Cahill thanked everybody involved in the process of getting the new school building plans and funding approved.

She also thanked her deputy Mr Dowling for his constant support along with the entire teaching staff, especially Ms Regan and Sr Teresa Walsh for their planning of the ceremony.

She also paid tribute to the 300 students at the school who will benefit hugely from this project.



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Bi-Centenary Celebration in Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel

Tuesday 15th October 2013

The Presentation Community in Clonmel are celebrating 200 years of Presentation Education in Clonmel this year.

A wonderful celebration took place on October 4th when all the pupils of Presentation Primary and Secondary schools, gathered to participate in a moving and memorable Mass of Thanksgiving to mark the Bi-Centenary of the arrival of the Presentation Sisters to the town.



Pictured above are members of the Presentation Community.

The Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Bishop William Lee. It was fitting to celebrate this special Mass in St Mary's Church, Irishtown because this is where the story started on Oct 2nd 1813.

The first three Presentation Sisters came to Clonmel on that date. They took up residence in a house right beside the church and shortly after started the long tradition of Presentation Education that has continued since in the town.

Mrs. Anne Breen, chairperson of the Bi-centenary Committee welcomed the congregation which included invited guests including the Mayor Pat English, Presentation Sisters, staff and students of both Primary & Secondary Schools, members of the Boards of Managements and Parents Councils, clergy, religious and parishioners from the local community.

Bishop Lee, in his homily, paid tribute to the Presentation sisters for their unselfish work in education in Clonmel for the last two hundred years and he thanked the lay members of the school staffs for keeping the rich heritage of Presentation Education alive in the schools.

A packed church listened to the beautiful music of the both school choirs under the direction of Ms. Alley, Ms. Williams and Ms. Conway.

Many were moved by the beautiful sound of the choirs and it was fitting that the children should be at the heart of the celebration. All who attended this Mass agreed that it was a truly wonderful occasion.

At the end of the Mass, Sr. Imelda Carew, Provincial Leader of the South East province and Sr. Marie Stella Mangan, Leader of the local community on behalf of the Presentation Sisters thanked everyone who participated in the Mass and paid tribute to everyone who has kept the light of Nano Nagle alive in the local community of Clonmel.



Sr. Imelda Carew, S.E. Provincial, reminded those present that the arrival of the Presentation Sisters in Clonmel 200 years ago was a "ray of hope in bleak times". Over the years many things had changed for the Sisters.

Sr. Imelda noted that the spirit and charism of Nano Nagle is embedded in the school community and has spread out to the wider community.

She thanked the local people for their continued support and for taking up Nano's call over the years.

This mass marked the beginning of a series of events planned by the Presentation Community in Clonmel to celebrate the bicentenary year. On Presentation day, November 21st, a student concert will be held in the schools.



On the January 6th 2014, a commemorative stone will be unveiled on the Presentation grounds as the first school was opened on that date two hundred years ago.

In March, an historical exhibition will take place in the County Museum in Clonmel in association with the launch of a book celebrating the history of Presentation education in Clonmel.

In May, a musical recital by Micheal O Suilleabhain will be held in the museum to marking the end of the exhibition.





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Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Drimnagh Opening Morning - Gathering

Friday 18th October 2013

Thursday the 17th October was a busy but special day for Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School Drimnagh.

The school decided to hold an open morning for the students in the local primary schools followed by their own 'Gathering' event in the afternoon in light of the year that is in it. Past principals, teachers and pupils were invited back especially for the event.

CEIST were represented by the school co-ordinator Justin Brown.

The principal Margaret Maher welcomed everybody and outlined the history of the school from when the Mercy sisters first arrived in 1943 up to the present day. She noted 10 sisters arrived in that year followed by 16 more in 1944.

She paid tribute to the massive contribution of the Mercy Sisters to the school over the years and said the Sisters still had a presence in the school through Sr. Claire Mannion who is the chaplain. Two former principals Sr. Agnes Coll and Sr. Nuala Kennedy spoke of their fondness for the school and its students and shared some of their memories of working in Our Lady's.

The school guidance counsellor Nuala Brady also spoke about the resources the school has to offer students in terms of their progression to further and higher education. She particularly highlighted the Mentoring Programme and its benefit for students.

A representative from Comminicorp who is part of the mentoring initiative spoke about the positive impression the students from Our Lady's have made on him and those from the company who act as mentors.

Presentations were also made two past pupils Laura Murphy who achieved 510 points in her Leaving Certificate and is currently studying Science in Trinity while Kirsty Byrne who's Mam is a SNA in Our Lady's was recognised for graduating with a First Class Honours Science Degree also from TCD.



Sport as a motivator was also a theme for the afternoon. Two Drimnagh natives Eamon Coughlan and Michael Carruth as well as past pupil Philip Sutcliffe shared their life experiences and offered advice to the students present on how to achieve their goals in life.

The day concluded with a remembrance ceremony for those who have died from the school community as well as the realising of balloons.

The guests then adjourned for tea and refreshments which were competently prepared by the Leaving Certificate Applied students who put the theory from their Hotel and Catering module into practice.

Well Done to all involved in organising a very enjoyable afternoon.





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Presentation Secondary School, Thurles Reunion 2013

Wednesday 30th October 2013

What is rare is wonderful. September 21st saw Presentation, Thurles open their doors to over 730 people offering past pupils a rare opportunity to meet with friends they had not seen in years and walk the corridors of their Alma Mater.

From the eldest past pupil, Mary Bergin, who turns ninety shortly, representing the graduating class of 1941 to Rachel Browne, who visited the school on a whirlwind visit with her new husband Colin, a wonderful day was had by all.

Sr. Fidelis and the nuns of the convent welcomed past boarders, and a few curious non-boarders, into the boarding school and gave them the chance to relive memories of their old home away from home. For many the boarding school was the source of much fun and laughter, not to mention a little bit of study along the way.

From one o'clock the stream of glamorous ladies began to stream in the entrance of the school and the sound of incessant chatter began to fill the air. While registering people had the chance to glimpse faces from their decade, many of whom they may not have seen in many years.

A beautifully inspiring liturgy was held in the Sports Hall of the school celebrated by school Chaplain, Fr. Tomás O'Connell, whose four sisters are all past pupils of the school. Principal, Marie Collins eloquently opened proceedings by welcoming everyone back to the school.

She captured the essence of the event when she said that there were generations of the one family in attendance at the reunion. Her emotive words set the stage for a wonderful event that will become part of the folklore of the school.

Sr. Fidelis gave the homily during which she recounted the history of the Presentation Sisters in Thurles. She gave thanks for each and every generation in attendance and for all who educated them throughout the years.

Renowned Irish poet, Áine Ní Glinn, read a self-penned reflection after communion praising the care given by the Presentation to all their students.

Mary Hanafin, former Minister for Education and Science, reflected on her time as a Presentation pupil at the end. Recalling the musicals over the years, the trips to the Gaeltacht and memorable teachers such as Sr. Alice and Padraigin Ni Dhuibhir.

She referred to the strength of spirit of the Presentation pupil and praised the bravery of Majella O'Donnell (Roche), a former pupil of the Presentation, who publically shaved her hair as part of her fundraising efforts for the Irish Cancer Society.

What followed was a chance to view thousands of old photos and slideshows of pictures in the classrooms that were once so familiar to so many. Getting a chance to sip a glass of wine in the box desk you once sat in for English lessons was a treat for many.

The sound of laughter resonated throughout the halls as people caught a glimpse of their old first year photos or marvelled at their choice of Debs dress.

Mitchell House were on stand-by and fed the 730 plus guests with ease and confidence. The clink of glasses and the clatter of cutlery sounded throughout the newly refurbished block of the school. Stories and tales of bygone days were shared over a beautiful meal.

Closing the event was never going to be an easy task, Deputy Principal, Mary B. Lanigan Ryan, did so wonderfully. She praised the superb organisation that went into the event.

It was all hands on deck at Presentation Thurles to pull off such a magnificent day, from those who first believed in the project, the committee, the current staff of the school and the present students.

The day went too quickly, the only possible complaint anyone could have with the day. A triumph for all those involved in its organisation.

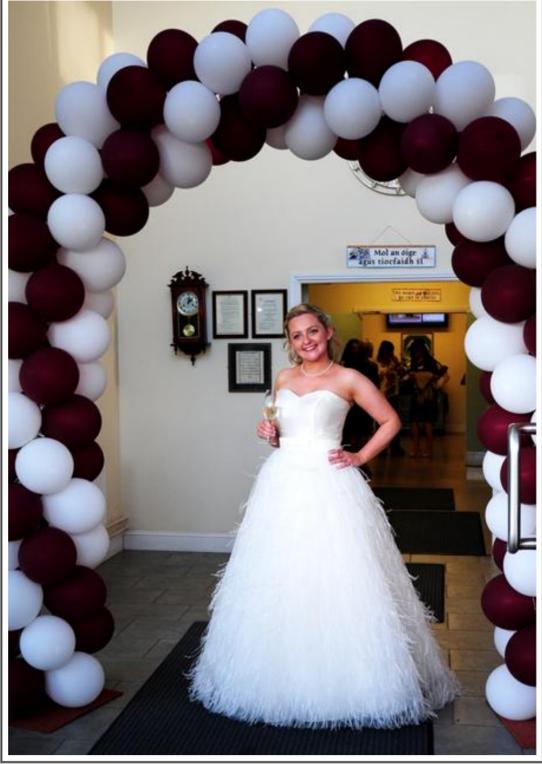
For many, September 21st will be a day never forgotten. Not a stone was left unturned by organisers, from the welcome pack on arrival to the slideshow presentations in the classrooms.

Over one hundred current pupils were on hand to dance, sing, guide and attend the past pupils and many remarked at the friendliness and respect evident among these girls.

The spirit of the Presentation is alive and well as remarked by many who were lucky enough to be part of what was an incredible day. A day filled with memories, smiles, laughter and the odd tear.

The event, organised as part of the 2013 Gathering was a wonderful success. Days like September 21st don't just happen, they are well planned and a huge congratulations goes to all involved in the event.

Photos





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St. Mary's Secondary School Nenagh Celebrate Opening of New Classrooms

Tuesday 22nd October 2013

The entire school community came together to celebrate the opening of four new classrooms at St. Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, which was followed by a beautiful liturgy in the Church.

St. Mary's has a rich Faith heritage and is renowned across the region, for its excellence in teaching & learning.

The Mercy sisters have given selflessly to the school since its inception in 1887 and the successive Boards of Management have built on this solid foundation over the years.

The excellent work is continued daily by the Principal, Mr. Michael Dineen, the Deputy Principal, Mr. Luke o' Connor and all the staff who lead the teaching and learning as well as the spiritual and social growth of the students at St. Mary's.

Catherine McCormack, CEIST Faith Leadership & Governance co-ordinator officiated at the opening & cut the ribbon on behalf of the Trustees, CEIST.

The welcome for the guests on the day was warm and inviting from the front reception to the very talented students who played and sang at the opening ceremony, which was a very beautiful and carefully planned liturgy.

Photos





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Bishop Denis Nulty Visits Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise

Monday 14th October 2013

Bishop Denis Nulty visited Scoil Chríost Rí, Secondary School in Portlaoise last Friday to bless the new prayer room and celebrate the opening year mass.

The school principal welcomed Bishop Denis and noted he was the first Bishop to visit the school which was a great honour.

Bishop Denis received a very warm welcome from the school community and was unsurprisingly impressed by the atmosphere and spirit which permeates the school.

In the interests of fairness Bishop Denis later crossed the plaza to celebrate mass in the neighbouring St. Mary's CBS who share a campus with Scoil Chríost Rí.

We would like to compliment Helen O'Donnell (Principal) and Ann Dollard (Deputy Principal), Sr. Evelyn (Chairperson of Board of Management) along with the Religion Teachers and the school community who ensured the event was a solemn and special event.



Photos



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BISHOP RAY CELEBRATES MERCY DAY AT MERCY MOUNTHAWK

Tuesday 22nd October 2013



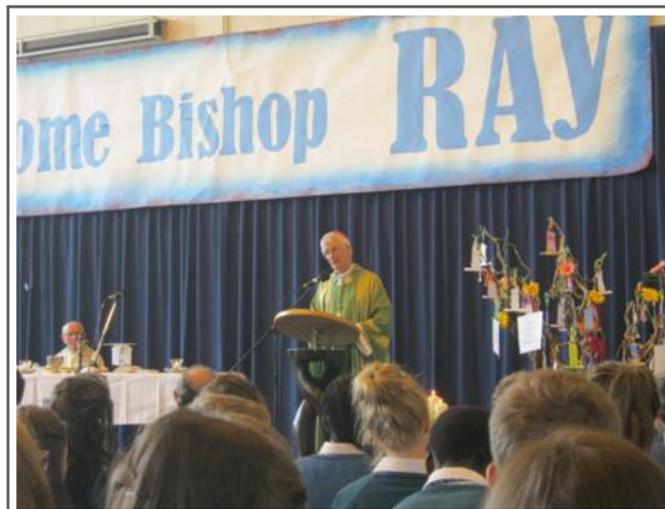
'Handing on HOPE to a new generation...'

On Mercy Day the staff, students, parents and members of the school community in Mercy Mounthawk joined to celebrate Mercy Day – the foundation day of the school.

It is the annual opportunity for the school to recognise in a special way the ethos of mercy that is at the heart of education in Mounthawk and this was celebrated with a mass for the students in the school gym.

This year, the school community was joined by the newly appointed Bishop of Kerry, Ray Browne to lead the celebration.

It was the first visit of the new bishop to the school and it was timely as this is the first time since the Mercy sisters established schools in Tralee in 1858 that there is no sister on the staff of a Mercy Secondary school in the town.



The Mercy Day celebration was an opportunity to thank Sr. Dora Lynch, Sr. Joan Curtin, Sr. Maureen O'Sullivan, Sr. Jacinta Griffin, Sr. Bernadette Costello and Sr. Nora Flynn - the six sisters who served on the staff of Mercy Mounthawk - for their years of dedicated service to education in Tralee.

Their contribution has been very significant and it is with a sense of occasion that the school takes on the tradition that is handed on from the sisters.

School principal, John O'Roarke, spoke of the importance of having solid values such as care and dedication and hope at the heart of education, especially at this time of difficulty in our country.

This is the central element that we must bring from the tradition of religions education that is handed on to us.

It is essential', he said, 'that through our school we give our young people a sense of hope for the future that is built on a quality education, with high standards and more importantly an education that is delivered in a community that teaches the importance of caring for one another. This was the spirit that drew Catherine McAuley, the founder to the Mercy order, to set up the order in the first place'.



Mercy Day celebration marks a new chapter in the life of the school - a chapter that is opened in HOPE...

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First Green Flag for Presentation Secondary School, Waterford

Thursday 24th October 2013



Presentation Secondary School held their first ever Green Flag raising ceremony on Monday 21st October.

Students at the school had been working on environmental issues for many years and the school was awarded the title of 'Waterford's Tidiest Secondary School' at the 2012 Waterford City Council Environment Awards.

When the new school building was completed in January 2012 it was seen by management, staff and students as an ideal opportunity to begin working towards the Litter and Waste Green Flag.

A large crowd of mainly third and fifth year students gathered in the school car park, accompanied by school management, teaching staff, representatives of the cleaning staff and school care taker Billy Collins who was on hand to help raise the flag.



Principal, Mrs Mary Ryan commended the members of the Green-schools Committee for all their hard work over the past year.

Chairperson of the Green-schools Committee, Kate Madigan, outlined the work that the committee had done in following the Seven Steps of the Green-schools Programme.

Kate also thanked the school caretakers and cleaning staff for their help and support throughout the application process.

Students formed a guard of honour holding green balloons as the honour of raising the flag went to fifth year student, Katie Frisby and third year representative, Kate Doherty.

There was tremendous applause as Presentation became only the third Waterford City Secondary School to achieve a Green Flag.

The 2013-2014 Green-schools Committee has already started working towards the next Green Flag on the Energy Theme under the Guidance of Geography teachers Ms O'Sullivan and Mrs O'Shaughnessy.





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St Mary's Secondary School Ballina Students Attend Knock Youth Gathering

Monday 21st October 2013

Knock Youth Gathering

On Friday 4th October 2013 Transition Year students from many CEIST schools travelled to Knock to join 5,000 students from all over Ireland at a Youth Gathering to celebrate the Year of Faith.

The theme of the gathering was chosen from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians – (2 Cor. 5:20). "We are ambassadors for Christ".

Mass was celebrated by the Papal Nuncio, His Excellency, Archbishop Charles Brown, who introduced the students to YOUCAT.

This is short for Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church it is a 2011 publication that aims to be an aid for youth to better understand the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The students received a gift of a copy of YOUCAT and Rosary Beans at the end of the day.

Pictured below are students from St. Mary's Ballina who were accompanied on the day by their RE teacher/school chaplain Joanne Cullen.





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FRIENDSHIP Week at Christ King Girls Secondary School, Cork

Monday 14th October 2013



As part of the holistic approach to education, Christ King Secondary School, Cork, approaches each school year with a certain theme in mind.

This year, we decided to dwell on what **FRIENDSHIP** means to all within the school community. In tandem with the theme we are devoting a week where there is a cross curricular approach.

Subjects like Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), CSPE and Health Education are used to tease out the value of friendship.

We are so aware of the power of social media and while it may be an instrument of healthy communication we are equally concerned that there are those in society who may use it to intimidate young people.

In recent times the school had Dr. Maureen Griffin, a forensic psychologist, speak to students and also to parents.

This week there are a number of events like the school group photograph with **CAIRDE** in the middle of the community.

Also there is a class picnic on Friday where students are invited to bring in food to share with others in groups of four.

First and Second Years are 'dressing' their classrooms on the theme of Friendship and it we will also have OUR GATHERING where new students to the school in all year groups will be invited to share their thoughts on what they have experienced since coming to school here.

All of these events have an underlying message that as human beings we are at our best when we relate in a healthy way with each other.

While there is much talk and debate nationally about Bullying and particularly cyber-bullying we wish to be more proactive in promoting the positive.

All in all, it means more than one weeks activities. It is an unending drive to assert the school's ethos of respect and self respect.

Christy O'Shaughnessy
Guidance Counsellor



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Recent News from Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont

Wednesday 30th October 2013

Parents Association Awards for Best JC & LC Results

Congratulations to Fiona Boyle who achieved 10 honours in her JC and to Charlotte Shireen Samuel who won the award for best LC results.

Charlotte is now studying Biomedical engineering in DCU.



Sam Maguire Cup Visits Beaumont

Students were delighted to welcome members of the Dublin Team on October 7th last.

Thanks to all who entered the poster competition and to Whitehall Gaels for organising the visit.

