

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

Appointment of New Chief Executive Officer for CEIST

CEIST has announced the appointment of new CEO, Dr. Marie Griffin. Dr. Marie Griffin is a native of Kerry and past pupil of Presentation Secondary School, Tralee. A former teacher and Guidance Counsellor, Dr. Griffin has been involved in education management for the past fifteen years. She was Principal in Scoil Mhuire, Athy, Co. Kildare and Deansrath Community College, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 before becoming Education Officer and Acting Chief Executive Officer of County Dublin Vocational Education Committee.

Dr. Griffin has been a member of the National Executive of the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals, the Advisory Committee of the National Educational Psychological Service, and Vice-President of the Chief Executives and Education Officers' Association. She is currently a member of the Standing Council of Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment.



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CEIST News

CEIST Flag

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We are greatly encouraged by the positive response from our schools to this venture.

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Don't Forget

CEIST Holy Week Retreat 2014

Our annual CEIST Retreat will take place at the beginning of Holy Week 2014. The retreat will run from Palm Sunday 13th April to Tuesday 15th April.

For the past four years members of our CEIST School Communities, Chairpersons, Principals and staffs, (past and present) have joined us in the Valley of the Saints, expertly guided by Fr. Michael Rogers and Sr. Breda Ahern CP for these days of pilgrimage.

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Faith-related Issues

The End of a Mercy Era in Strokestown, Co. Roscommon

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Many speeches of appreciation were given on the night to give thanks for the multi-dimensional work of the Sisters with a particular emphasis towards the field of education.

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News from CEIST Schools

Presentation Castleisland Win Student Enterprise Social Innovation Award!

Congratulations to [Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland](#), Co. Kerry on winning the county final of the student enterprise award in social innovation.

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Fifth year business students from Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland entered this competition whereupon they received the award for social innovation.

[MORE >](#)

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The school has been very successful on the GAA fields winning the county U14 football championship and students have also excelled by participating in Young Scientist 2014, winning Gaisce Awards and a Financial team of the month award!

[MORE >](#)

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Many past and present staff and students were in attendance. CEIST were represented by their Faith Leadership and Governance Co-ordinator for the school, Justin Brown.

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Árdscoil na Tríonóide, Athy Earn Gaisce Silver and Bronze Awards

Fifty Transition Year students from [Árdscoil na Tríonóide, Athy](#) made their way through trails in Glendalough to earn Gaisce Silver and Bronze Awards.

The students were lead by Mr Paul Quinn (PE Teacher), Mr John McCauley and Sr Concepta with an overnight stay in the An Óige International Hostel.

The group would like to express their thanks to Trish and her staff at the hostel for their care and hospitality.

[MORE >](#)

Mount Mercy College Cork Student, A National Winner of Essay Competition

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Rachel was presented with an iPad for her winning essay entitled "What kind of saints do we need today" and was a guest at TCD for a day along with her teacher Ms. Hogan and Mount Mercy College Principal Pdraigín Uí Riordáin.

[MORE >](#)

Senator Rónán Mullen Comes to Talk with Students in Athy

Independent candidate for the European elections in the Midlands-North-West constituency, Senator Rónán Mullen was invited to [Árdscoil na Tríonóide, Athy](#) by second and third year CSPE students.

He engaged with students' questions on a wide range of topics surrounding the work of the Senate and the issues he stands for in the up-coming European elections concerning social justice, human trafficking, support for improved end-of life care in hospitals, maintaining Ireland's commitment to overseas development aid and social welfare protection for the economically vulnerable.

[MORE >](#)

Sr Antonio Mahoney Celebrates Her Diamond Jubilee

This year the School Librarian from [Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont](#), Sr Antonio Mahoney celebrates her Diamond Jubilee.

The Student Council presented Sr Antonio with a commemorative bookmark to mark the occasion.

[MORE >](#)

Young Students of Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney Receive John Paul II Awards

[Our Lady's Secondary School](#), Castleblayney are particularly proud of the most recent achievement of a group of 5th & 6th Year students and 4 past pupils, who were awarded John Paul II Award for volunteering in the Church and the local community.

At a function in the Sieve Russell Hotel, presided over by His Lordship, Bishop McDaid, young people from the parishes of Muckno and Donaghmoynne were honoured for their commitment and witness to their faith.

[MORE >](#)

Latest News from Coláiste Muire, Ennis

[Coláiste Muire, Ennis](#), Co. Clare have kindly shared with us all their latest news and photos.

Some of the news items demonstrate wonderful creativity and innovation from the students, and obviously a lot of hard work from their teachers in facilitating their various projects.

[MORE >](#)

Reviews

Emmanuel 2014

2,100 secondary school students from 60 Schools took part in Emmanuel 2014, Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th of March in the Helix, Dublin City University.

Emmanuel is a concert of liturgical music and is a project of the Dublin Diocesan Liturgy Resource Centre.

Well done to all of the CEIST Schools who took part in the concert.

[MORE >](#)

Master of Arts in Christian Leadership in Education (MACLE)

The MACLE is an innovative postgraduate programme, leading to a professional qualification for school leaders.

It explores key concepts in theology and spirituality as they relate to educational leadership, along with issues of educational policy and management within the context of faith based schools.

The MACLE is a part-time programme over two academic years offered both by Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick and Marino Institute of Education, Dublin.

Click [HERE](#) to download brochure for further details.

Presentation Secondary School Milltown Commence Site Works

Congratulations to Presentation Secondary School, Milltown, Co. Kerry on commencement of site works for their build of new school.

Click [here](#) to view our past article on their new school development.

Diploma in Catholic Education and Leadership

The Diploma in Catholic Education offered by St Patrick's College, Maynooth is an initiative undertaken in partnership with the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE).

This programme is dedicated to training post-primary teachers to work in Catholic schools.

Click [here](#) to download brochure and [here](#) for poster.

World Wise Global Schools Funding

WorldWise Global Schools is an Irish Aid programme for development education in post primary schools, which aims to contribute to increased knowledge and understanding of global justice issues and increased engagement and action by students as active global citizens.

The next round of funding for post-primary Development Education is now open for applications with a deadline of April 16th, 2014.

Click [here](#) for further details.

St Patrick's College, Thurles Student Teacher Experience Day

St Patrick's College, Thurles are hosting a Student Teacher Experience Day in the College on Saturday 12 April.

It will be of interest to any prospective applicant.

Click [here](#) to download flyer.

Profile your school on CEIST E-News!

CEIST would be delighted to share your news snippets, student achievements, photos, upcoming events, etc.

Please send to jwoods@ceist.ie or contact John Woods on 086-0437146/01-6510433.

The next publication of our e-newsletter will be on **Wednesday 30th April, 2014.**



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Thursday 27th March 2014

CEIST has announced the appointment of new CEO, Dr. Marie Griffin.

Dr. Marie Griffin is a native of Kerry and past pupil of Presentation Secondary School, Tralee. A former teacher and Guidance Counsellor, Dr. Griffin has been involved in education management for the past fifteen years.

She was Principal in Scoil Mhuire, Athy, Co. Kildare and Deansrath Community College, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 before becoming Education Officer and Acting Chief Executive Officer of County Dublin Vocational Education Committee.

Dr. Griffin has been a member of the National Executive of the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals, the Advisory Committee of the National Educational Psychological Service, and Vice-President of the Chief Executives and Education Officers' Association.

She is currently a member of the Standing Council of Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment.

In her personal capacity, Dr Griffin was involved for many years with Catholic Youth Care (CYC) and served as the Chairperson of the Council of CYC for four years. She is married with four grown-up children.

Dr. Griffin said "I am delighted to be taking up the challenge of becoming Chief Executive Officer of CEIST. Parents have indicated that they want diversity of provision in Irish second-level education and schools in the Catholic tradition, such as CEIST schools, are a valued part of that diversity. Providing a quality education that strives for excellence and nurtures young people in all aspects of their lives, including their faith, is integral to the CEIST ethos. I look forward to working with all members of the school communities in the years ahead."

The Board of Directors of CEIST looks forward to working with Dr. Griffin so that CEIST can play its part in the future direction of Irish Education.





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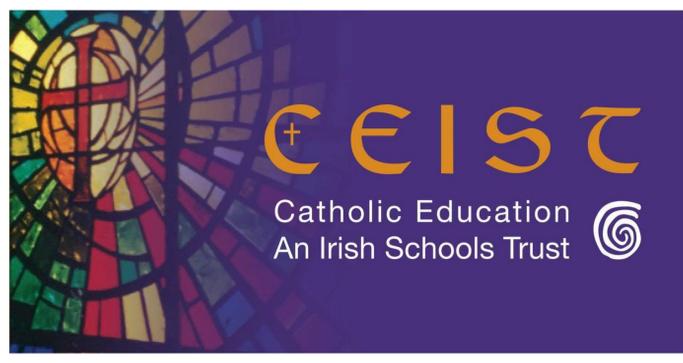
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CEIST Flag

Thursday 13th March 2014



The CEIST Education Office has distributed our new flag as displayed above to our 110 schools, which was kindly sponsored by Allianz.

We are greatly encouraged by the positive response from our schools to this venture and we would be delighted if our schools would include the CEIST logo on their school stationery, which can be downloaded by clicking on link below.

CEIST Logo for use on school Stationery

[CEIST Logo](#)

CEIST Schools Flying the CEIST Flag!



Pictured above the CEIST flag being flown outside St Leo's College, Carlow.



Pictured above [Presentation Secondary School, Loughboy](#), Co. Kilkenny with the CEIST flag on display!



The School Principal of St Mary's High School, Midleton, Mr Donal Cronin kindly sent in the photo above of the CEIST flag being displayed outside their school.



Presentation Secondary School, Milltown, Co. Kerry flying the CEIST Flag.



The CEIST Flag pictured outside Presentation Secondary School, Waterford.



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CEIST Holy Week Retreat 2014

Monday 24th February 2014

We return to the Tearmann Spirituality centre in Glendalough, once again, for our annual [CEIST Retreat](#) which will take place at the beginning of Holy Week 2013. The retreat will run from Palm Sunday **13th April** to Tuesday **15th April**.

For the past four years members of our CEIST School Communities, Chairpersons, Principals and staffs, (past and present) have joined us in the Valley of the Saints, expertly guided by Fr. Michael Rogers and Sr. Breda Ahern CP for these days of pilgrimage.

Our experiences have been very different – both in the content of the retreat and the vagaries of the weather! However, on previous occasions the opportunity to take time out at this most sacred time of the year has been deeply appreciated by those who have taken part.

Some of the feedback we have received included the following:

“A most wonderful experience. It gave me many great opportunities to delve into my inner self and realise what’s really important in my life”.

“I so enjoyed the peace and calm”.

“Such an enriching experience I will never forget it”.

“I experienced a beautiful God once again breathing his love, life and energy into me”.

“Time to reflect and go on the journey inward and outward”.

“I found that even though time was short I got the chance to refuel my batteries and enter into the true spirit of this great season”.

If you would like to join us for this very special introduction to Holy Week, or for more information, please contact Siobhan Stopes: E-mail: sstopes@ceist.ie or Tel: **01-6510350**.

The cost of the retreat, which includes accommodation and all meals is €150.00.

Click [here](#) to download our Retreat flyer.

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The End of a Mercy Era in Strokestown, Co. Roscommon

Tuesday 18th March 2014

Sister Patricius Quine, the last Mercy Sister to have lived in Strokestown has retired from [Scoil Mhuire, Secondary School](#).

The occasion of the departure was beautifully marked by a meaningful liturgy on Friday, December 6th last.

Many speeches of appreciation were given on the night to give thanks for the multi-dimensional work of the Sisters with a particular emphasis towards the field of education.

The [Sisters of Mercy Website](#) has more details on the event.

Photos



Pictured above are the Strokestown Church Choir, with Bishop Christopher Jones, Sr Richard, and Musical Director, Sr Patricius.



Pictured above Sr Richard, Bishop Jones and Sr Christina in Strokestown Church.



Pictured above Bishop Jones and Sr Patricius with a group of Mercy Sisters that attended the Mass, some who had taught in Strokestown.



Pictured above are some of the speakers at the Mass, Padraig O'Beirne, Teddy Flanagan, Anna Feely, John Allen, with Bishop Jones.



Pictured above John Allen, Chairman of Strokestown Pastoral Council accepting the Mercy Cross from Sr Patricius Quine on the occasion of the Mercy Sisters departing from the town. The Cross will be on display in Strokestown Church.



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Presentation Castleisland Win Student Enterprise Social Innovation Award!

Friday 21st March 2014

Congratulations to [Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland](#), Co. Kerry on winning the county final of the student enterprise award in social innovation.

The County Finals of the Student Enterprise Awards took place on the 5th of March in Tralee I.T.

Fifth year business students from Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland entered this competition whereupon they received the award for social innovation.

The entrepreneurs wrote and published a book called 'Yes now I get it'.

This book was written through the medium of social stories, to help and guide children, especially teenagers who have autism.

These stories illustrate how to cope with situations faced by teenagers on a daily basis.

In the production of this book, the students learned valuable lessons from the experience – showing great initiative, creativity, communication and teamwork skills.



Pictured above L- R are students Ellen Horan, Lucia Baily, Nora Murphy, Siobhan Kelly and Rebecca Lyons.



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St Joseph's Rochfortbridge - Positive Mental Health Week

Monday 31st March 2014

Positive Mental Health Week 24th March 2014

[St Joseph's Secondary School, Rochfortbridge](#), Co. Westmeath have just completed a very successful positive mental health week.

Under the guidance of Home Economics teacher Ms. Hackett and with the permission of school Principal Ms. Alford, students had a different activity each day to make students 'smile'.

Smiling was in fact the theme chosen and students did plenty of that during the week.

Examples of the activities in which the students engaged in included;

- A non uniform sunshine day where students wore something orange or yellow.
- This was followed by a run a mile with a smile on Tuesday.
- On Wednesday some brave teachers agreed to partake in a wax off.
- Thursday was off line day where students committed to staying away from Facebook.
- The week concluded with a Get Energetic Friday.

We would like to compliment all involved in this worthwhile and welcome initiative.

Well Done and keep smiling!!

Photos



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The team were crowned the All Ireland Junior Camogie Champions for the first time after they came back from 5 points down in the first half and eventually defeated another CEIST school St Joseph's School of Tulla, Co. Clare by 2 points.

The final result 3-6 to 2-7. St Joseph's camogie team fought with such determination against a tough team to bring home the All Ireland Junior Camogie cup to Lucan.

Thanks to all the supporters and parents who travelled to Nenagh to watch this historic win.

Congratulations to Mr Kirwan and Mr Beecher for being such fantastic coaches.

More action shots of the match can be found in the photo gallery on the school website.



Pictured above the All Ireland Camogie Champions.



The captain celebrates with the cup!



Pictured above the team and mentors.



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Eureka Secondary School, Kells Launch Education Resource Pack

Friday 28th March 2014

Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath have created a classroom resource as part of their YSI project.

Well done to the girls who launched recently their YSI project 3 Times More Likely Education Resource pack for schools to Bring Organ Donation into Education!

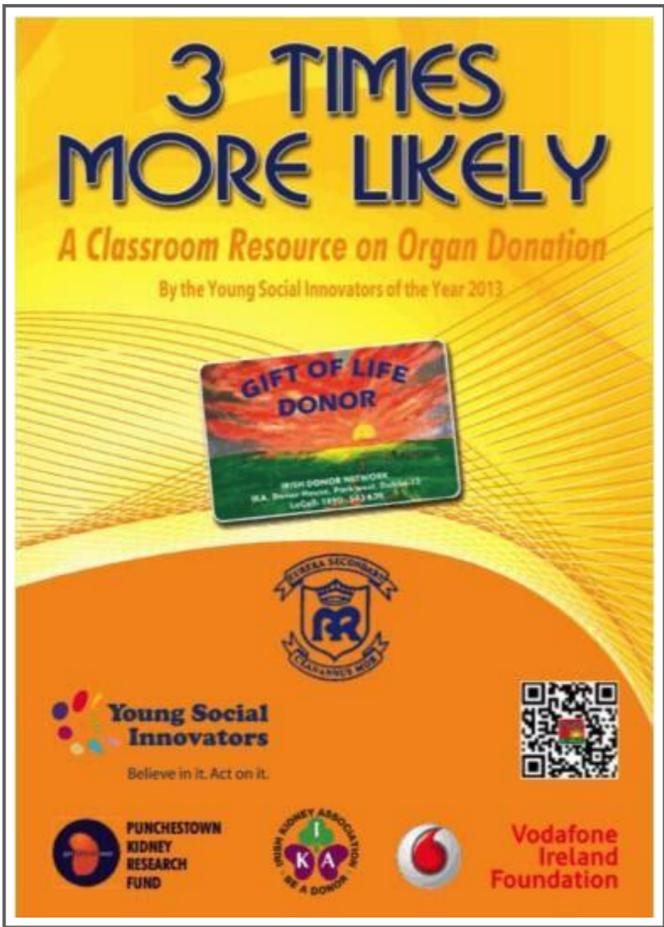
[BODIE - Bring Organ Donation into Education](#)

The launch took place at the Mansion House with Taoiseach Enda Kenny. Well done girls and teacher Ms Cronin.



Pictured above students launching education resource.

Click [here](#) to download the Eureka classroom resource on organ donation.





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News Snippets from Mount St Michael Secondary School, Rosscarbery

Friday 21st March 2014

[Mount St Michael Secondary School](#), Rosscarbery, Co. Cork kindly shared the following photos and news items.

Eco-UNESCO



Congratulations to Mount St Michael, Rosscarbery TY students Sean Gordon and Joseph McCarthy pictured above, who were selected to take part in the Munster selection for the Eco-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Award.

The pair have completed a desktop feasibility study for a small scale hydroelectric generator in Rosscarbery which was previously very well received at the BT Young Scientist Competition.

French Exchange Students



Pictured above Mount Saint Michael Rosscarbery French Exchange Students at Note Dame, Paris

Gaisce Award



Pictured above are students with their teachers that won the Bronze Gaisce Medal 2013-14.

Buckley Financial Team of the Month



Pictured above are students with school Principal, Bart Kerrisk receiving the Buckley Financial team of the month award.

U14 County Football Champions



Mount St Michael Secondary School had great success in 2013 on the GAA fields winning the county u14 championship! Pictured above the winning team with their coach.

Young Scientist 2014 Photos





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St. Mary's College, Naas Leaving Cert Awards Night

Wednesday 26th March 2014

St. Mary's College, Naas, Co. Kildare held an awards night on Friday March 21st to honour a number of outgoing Leaving Certificate students on their achievements in the state examination.

Many past and present staff and students were in attendance. CEIST were represented by their Faith Leadership and Governance Co-ordinator for the school, Justin Brown.

In her opening address on the night Principal Rita McCabe noted that 28 students achieved over 500 points in their Leaving Certificate which was double the national average. She praised the outgoing sixth years and acknowledged they were a lovely group of girls to work with in the school.

Dr. Molling Ryan, Chairperson of the School Board of Management also addressed the gathering and acknowledged the contribution of the teachers and excellent reputation that St. Mary's has in the local community.

Students received awards in one of five categories – **Mathematical Achievement, Academic Achievement, Contribution to Ethos, The Marie O'Neill Award and the Past Pupil's Award.**

As each student received her award a citation from their teachers was also read out, which added a very personal touch to proceedings.

The students were not the only group to be recognised on the night. A special award was also presented to retired Deputy Principal, Teresa Nolan for her years of service in St. Mary's.

In her acceptance speech she singled out the role of the Mercy Sisters in St. Mary's and their enormous contribution and commitment over the years. It was fitting that Sr. Brigid Tierney and Sr. Anne Doyle both former principals of St. Mary's who currently live in Naas were present to hear such deserved praise.

The school choir also performed on the night. Under their Director Ms. Manion the girls performed two diverse but equally beautiful melodies – Free at Last and May the Road Rise to Meet You.

At the conclusion of the ceremony Ms. McCabe thanked all those involved in the organisation of the night particularly Board members Sr. Brigid, Bernie Briody and David Lanigan.

After the ceremony all the guests were invited to remain on for light refreshments kindly provided by the school.

This was a fitting finale to a very pleasant and enjoyable evening.

Photos



Pictured above are centre Dr. Molling Ryan Chairperson of BOM, Rita McCabe, School Principal (Right), Teresa Nolan (Left) with some of the award recipients.



Pictured above (LtoR) are Marie O'Neill, Dr. Molling Ryan, Rita McCabe, Teresa Nolan.



Pictured above students from St Mary's College at the awards night.



Past Leaving Cert Students from St Mary's College, Naas pictured above with their awards.



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The students were lead by Mr Paul Quinn (PE Teacher), Mr John McCauley and Sr Concepta with an overnight stay in the An Óige International Hostel.

The group would like to express their thanks to Trish and her staff at the hostel for their care and hospitality.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the adventure despite aching limbs in some cases!

Photos



Students pictured at the wooden bridge.



Full group of students from Árdscoil na Tríonóide, Athy.



Pictured above are the Gaisce Silver Medalists from Árdscoil na Tríonóide, Athy.



Pictured above students at the top of Camaderry.



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Mount Mercy College Student, A National Winner of Essay Competition

Thursday 6th March 2014

Rachel Feeney 5th year student in [Mount Mercy College](#), Model Farm Road, Cork was the national winner of an Essay competition at The Loyola Institute, TCD.

Rachel was presented with an iPad for her winning essay entitled "What kind of saints do we need today" and was a guest at TCD for a day along with her teacher Ms. Hogan and Mount Mercy College Principal Padraigín Uí Riordáin.

A highlight of the visit was viewing the Book of Kells and meeting the Director of The Loyola Institute, Dr Corneus Casey CSSR, Professor Shane Allwright, Registrar at TCD and Professor Fáiinche Ryan followed by lunch at The Alliance Francaise in Kildare Street.



Rachel Feeney pictured above with her Religious Education teacher in the Long Room at Trinity College, Dublin.



Rachel pictured being presented with her iPad award from Professor Fáiinche Ryan and Professor Shane Allwright, Registrar at TCD.



Pictured above (LtoR) are Sr. Ríonach Donlon IBVM, Professor Shane Allwright, Professor Fáiinche Ryan, Rachel Feeney, Ms. Therese Hogan, Religious Education Teacher and Principal Ms. Padraigín Uí Riordáin.



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Senator Rónán Mullen Comes to Talk with Students

Tuesday 18th March 2014

Independent candidate for the European elections in the Midlands-North-West constituency, Senator Rónán Mullen was invited to Árdcoil na Tríonóide, Athy by second and third year CSPE students.

Students asked the Senator to speak about 'Democracy' as part of their studies and his work as a member of the Senate.

Senator Rónán Mullen was elected to the upper house in 2007 and won the 2nd highest number of first preferences in his re-election in 2011.

He engaged with students' questions on a wide range of topics surrounding the work of the Senate and the issues he stands for in the up-coming European elections concerning social justice, human trafficking, support for improved end-of life care in hospitals, maintaining Ireland's commitment to overseas development aid and social welfare protection for the economically vulnerable.

Senator Mullen also had time to meet and chat with Transition Year students who form part of the Young Social Innovators Community within the school.



Pictured above Senator Rónán Mullen with Mr John McCormack, School Principal.



Senator Rónán Mullen pictured with students from Árdcoil na Tríonóide.



Senator Mullen pictured with group of students.



Students and Staff with Rónán in the school Demo Room.



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Sr Antonio Mahoney Celebrates Her Diamond Jubilee

Thursday 27th March 2014

This year the School Librarian from [Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont](#), Sr Antonio Mahoney celebrates her Diamond Jubilee.

The Student Council presented Sr Antonio with a commemorative bookmark to mark the occasion.

Karina Acedera from 2nd year read a poem (see below) she wrote about Sr Antonio.

This was selected to be printed on the back of the bookmark.

Click [here](#) to view more photos of this special day.



A Special Task

I walk through the door of the library
Back to a peaceful sanctuary
You greet me with a kind smile
And wait as I look around a while.

Although I take a long time to choose
You patiently wait, looking amused.
I hand you the book, not a word is said.
As I wonder if it's a book you have read.

You write down my name, the author, the book.
And check the pages of the book that I took.
When you are done, you look up and ask
If I can do a special task.

I nod my head, I don't hesitate
I hold my breath as I stand and wait.
Then, you tell me to spread my faith
To those who are alone and afraid,
To believe in God and to walk in the light
Of Our Father whose love burns bright through the night.

By Karina Acedera, 2nd year.

Thanks to Sr. Antonio
and all the Sisters of Mercy
who have worked in
our school since it was set up in 1957.



Pictured above Sr Antonio with students from Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont.

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Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney are particularly proud of the most recent achievement of a group of 5th & 6th Year students and 4 past pupils, who were awarded John Paul II Award for volunteering in the Church and the local community.

At a function in the Slieve Russell Hotel, presided over by His Lordship, Bishop McDaid, young people from the parishes of Muckno and Donaghmoynes were honoured for their commitment and witness to their faith.

Having completed 20 hours of Parish activities and 20 hours of social awareness duties in addition to a written project, these young people had given their time to such activities as reading at mass, church decoration/collector and social duties like working in a youth club, coaching younger students in sport and regular visitation to St Mary's Hospital and Castleross.

It was a fitting tribute and just reward for these young students who had worked so hard in their parishes with the guidance and mentoring of the John Paul II Leaders, Irene Cairns in Muckno and Carole Christie, Elizabeth Cunningham, Ann Finnegan & Martina McMahon in Donaghmoynes.

Many of the students from Our Lady's who received the awards had travelled to Lourdes in July 2013 as Young Helpers, helping the sick and elderly of the Diocese and attending liturgies and sacraments, this accounted for 6 hours of Social Awareness or 6 hours of Parish duties.

Very many of them had also been selected to positions of responsibility and nurturing as Peer Support and Prefects in Our Lady's.



Pictured above are students from Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney who were awarded the John Paul II Award in recent days. In the photo are John Duffy, David Hughes, Nyle Mohan, Roisin Finnegan, Colleen Carville & Aoife McCooey while Jacqueline Kelly, Darragh McKenna, Alanagh McElroy, Aine McElroy, Niamh Callan & Ellen Tibby are missing from the photo.

Congratulations are extended to Aoife McCooey, Jacqueline Kelly, Colleen Carville, John Duffy, David Hughes, Nyle Mohan and Darragh McKenna, Roisin Finnegan, Alanagh McElroy, Aine McElroy, Niamh Callan & Ellen Tibby (Donaghmoynes) and Paul Gilson, Jason Finnegan, Anthony Cunningham and Lisa Cairns Leaving Cert Class 2013, all of whom are wonderful ambassadors for their communities and parishes.

Good wishes are extended to another 35 students, 10 of whom are attending Our Lady's, who have signed up to complete the awards this year.

The wonderful work being done for faith and witness in the communities can be complemented by the work done in schools and will only serve to help the growth, development and spirituality of our young people.



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Latest News from Coláiste Muire, Ennis

Friday 21st March 2014

[Coláiste Muire, Ennis](#) have kindly shared with us their latest news snippets and photos.

Prep for Med

Caoimhe McCabe and Grainne Cremin attended UCC's Prep for Med programme on 24 January. They had the opportunity to visit the FLAME Anatomy laboratory. This was followed by attendance at various clinical stations where they learned about Cardiac arrhythmias, taking a blood sample, resuscitation, blood pressure measurement, pulses and rhythms and first aid. In the afternoon they travelled to Cork University Hospital and attended a presentation on Forensics of a Crime Scene by Assistant State Pathologist, Margot Bolster. This was followed by observation of live surgery (c section) via video link.

Cardiac First Responders Course

The purpose of this course is to enable students to assess a collapsed casualty and perform CPR on an adult, child and infant. Students learn how to recognise the signs of choking, the signs of a heart attack and stroke and they are taught how to provide treatment. All of our TY students are now certified Cardiac First Responders after training from 20th to 22nd January.

Big and Bold, Hot and Cold Magic Show

The purpose of this demonstration which took place on 5 February was to engage students in Chemistry and the possibilities available from studying this subject. It was facilitated by Beulah McManus of UL's Chemistry Dept.

Visit to Vistakon

As part of Engineers Week TY students visited Vistakon (part of the Medical Device & Diagnostics Division of Johnson & Johnson) on 12th February. Vistakon is the largest manufacturer of Disposable Contact Lenses in the world. The visit gave students a real insight into what engineers actually do. They learnt about the huge range of specialist disciplines and how engineers work together to design solutions, troubleshoot problems and make processes run more efficiently. Thanks to John Perkins for facilitating this visit.

Transition Year Physics Experience

Caoimhe McCabe and Grainne Cremin attended TCD's Physics / Nanoscience Day on 25th February. They attended lectures on Physics and Nanoscience and they observed various demonstrations. Both students learned how physics affects the world around us and how the future will be evolving with physics.

Retreats

Conor and Peter Cronin of the Mustard Seed facilitated retreats for our Leaving Cert and Junior Cert students during January and March. The annual retreats are an opportunity for students to take time out from study and academic work and to reflect on their hopes, dreams and aspirations. Students thoroughly enjoyed the meditation and the many team building exercises.

Transition Year Drama Festival

Our TY1 class performed Alan Ayckbourn's "Ernie's Incredible Illucinations" in the Briery Gap Macroom on 3rd February.

This is a comedy about Ernie Frasier, a dreamer with a difference.

Ernie has a vivid imagination and his thoughts have the disconcerting habit of turning into reality. TY1 qualified for the final on 1st March where they were placed second. Molly Cantwell also received a Special Adjudicator's award for her performance.



Student Enterprise Awards

Our TY 2 class exhibited their mini company projects in the West County Hotel Ennis on 6th March as part of the Clare County Enterprise Board's Student Enterprise Awards 2014. The four mini companies were Shove (fluffy insole), Scenties (small bags of pot pourri), Picafew (personalised posters) and Getta Grip (sock grips). Well done to Shove on being awarded "Best Business Plan".

On being an Archaeologist for a day

Clare Museum offers this Geography programme to secondary schools. Students got a chance to examine artefacts up close and they learned the scientific techniques used by Archaeologists for dating finds, testing soil and extracting artefacts from the ground through fun, hands on experiments. These workshops took place on consecutive Thursdays in March.



YSI (Young Social Innovators) Speakout

TY1 (Beware of IT) and TY2 (Human Price Tag) presented their projects at the regional Speakout in the Lime Tree Theatre, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick on 13th March.

Beware of IT is looking at internet safety and is targeting teenagers in particular. They are raising awareness of the risks of friending random people on Facebook and the consequences of making personal details available to all.

Human Price Tag investigates human trafficking and sexual exploitation. To celebrate International Women's Day TY2 showcased a presentation they have developed about prostitution in Ireland, which examines the experiences of women and girls and also looks at the legislation currently in place. The evening featured **Mia de Faolite**, an activist for **Turn off the Red Light campaign**. It was held in the Temple Gate Hotel on 7th March and was organised in collaboration with Clare Women's Network.

Songschool

This workshop offers students a first hand insight into life as a professional songwriter / musician and an overview of song writing and the music business. Students wrote, performed and recorded their own songs during a series of two day workshop in March.

Young St. Vincent de Paul

Our young St. Vincent de Paul society was set up in January by our TY2 class through their participation in the John Paul 2 awards. As part of a fundraising initiative our TY2 class held a sleepover in school for all TY students on 21st March.

Feile na hInse

Coláiste Muire won the perpetual shield in the Scoraiocht competition in Feile na hInse which took place during Seachtain na Gaeilge 2014. Their theme was "An aimsir"... the weather. The group played tunes including "the Foggy Dew" and "An Ghaoth Aneas". Set dancers created thunder with their battering and the step dancers gave the illusion of soft rainfall.



Students from first to fourth year participated and used their talents in singing, dancing and recitation. The entire performance was through Irish.

Leaving Cert Applied

As part of their Leisure and Recreation studies our LCA1 class visited Horizon Adventure Centre in Westport from 10th to 12th March. Students took part in a multi-activity programme which included surfing, kayaking, climbing Croagh Patrick, zip wire, Jacobs ladder, high ropes, archery and various team building tasks.

Fair Trade Fortnight



Coláiste Muire celebrated Fair Trade fortnight again this year. Mairead Sheedy of Fair Trade Ireland was assisted by Transition Year and 3rd Year students selling Fair Trade products at lunch time in our Leaving Cert area.

Purchasing Fair Trade products guarantees a better deal for third world producers. Thanks to Mairead who also delivered presentations to each of our six first year classes.

Our TY Art class designed a series of posters to mark Fair Trade fortnight.

Kemmy Business School, UL / BSTAI Awards

Sixteen of our students who achieved A grades in their Junior Cert 2013 were presented with certificates acknowledging their outstanding achievements at a ceremony in University of Limerick on 5th March.

Their parents and our Business Studies teachers were also in attendance.



Defence Forces Visit



Coláiste Muire welcomed Lieutenant Aine Gilmore and Cpl Vanessa Fox on 13th February.

They briefed interested Leaving Cert students and a group of our Transition Year students on opportunities available with the Irish Defences Forces. Recruitment for 2014 has now commenced.

Applications close on 9 April. Thanks to Comdt Jayne Lawlor, Gender, Equality and Diversity Officer who organised this visit.

Junk Kouture

This national competition for 2nd level schools challenges teenagers to create high end wearable fashion from everyday junk that would normally find its way to the bin. Junk Kouture aims to inspire and ignite passion in these teenagers while at the same time subtly educating them about the importance of recycling and reusing waste for the good of the planet.

Two of our second year students, Enya Feerick and Rachel McDonnell represented Coláiste Muire at the Regional Final on 14 March in UCH Limerick with their design, "An Ice Queen".

ECO-UNESCO Young Environmental Awards

Our A3 first year class have completed an environmental project that will be showcased at this year's ECO-UNESCO Young Environmental Awards on 25th March 2014 in Claregalway. The project incorporates two main actions; tree planting and fundraising for charity.

The project title is "Little Trees for Little Christmas". The team purchased approximately 150 "Noble Fir" trees from a local forester. After decorating 150 pots, the trees were then sold on Ennis Farmers' Market. Those who bought a tree were encouraged to plant on or after Little Christmas.



They were also made aware that their purchase was helping charity. The project helped raise awareness on tree planting and also raised €752 for charity.

Two charities were supported during the completion of this project: Irish Seed Savers Association and UNICEF Ireland. Seed Savers work to conserve and protect Irish native plant life. UNICEF Ireland was selected in an effort to help victims of the 2013 typhoon.

The second phase of the project is to enhance local biodiversity in Ennis. Students are planting an orchard in a community space in Ennis, on the premises of Respond Voluntary Housing. Apple trees were supplied by Irish Seed Savers and will be planted by the class on Saturday, 22nd March 2014. The class will take responsibility for looking after the orchard over the coming years while students at Coláiste Muire. In addition to enhancing the area's biodiversity, the project has also created links between the school and the local community.



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Emmanuel 2014

Monday 10th March 2014

2,100 secondary school students from 60 Schools took part in Emmanuel 2014 from all over the Archdiocese of Dublin on Tuesday 4th, Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th of March in the Helix, Dublin City University.

Emmanuel is a concert of liturgical music and is a project of the Dublin Diocesan Liturgy Resource Centre.

Congratulations to the following CEIST Schools who took part in the concert:

- [Mercy Secondary School, Goldenbridge, Inchicore](#)
- [Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin](#)
- [Presentation Secondary School, Blackrock](#)
- [Sancta Maria College, Ballyroan](#)
- [St. Joseph's Secondary School, Rush](#)
- [St. Mary's College, Arklow](#)

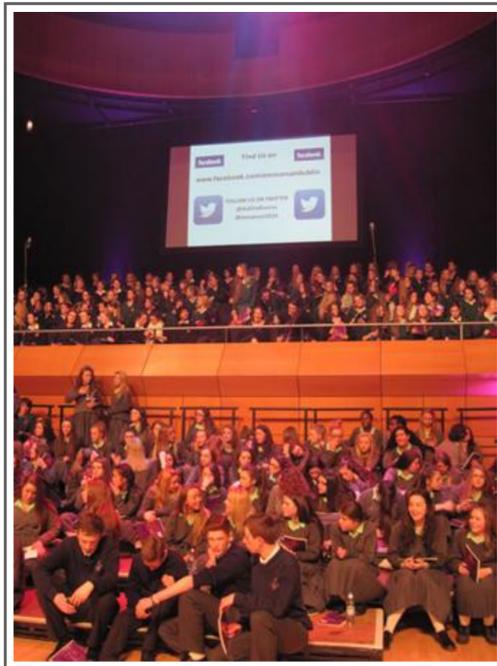
The concerts captured nationwide attention as #Emmanuel was trending on Twitter.

In attendance on the Wednesday night were composers, Liam Lawton and Dana Scallon.

The following is a [PowerPoint](#) containing the images that ran during Tim Hughes' beautiful hymn, [Here I Am To Worship](#).

By clicking on the links, you will find options to download a clip of the hymn, which could be played while showing the slides.

Emmanuel 2014 Photos



Break in Rehearsals!



Busy Tweeting #Emmanuel 2014



Cheese!!



Pictured above the magnificent setting at the Helix. (Thanks to Marie Therese Kilmartin, Principal Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin for above photo and to Anna Maloney Post-Primary Diocesan Advisor, Archdiocese Dublin for sharing other photos and resources).