



news from ceist...

27 June 2014

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

Latest News From CEIST

CEIST would like to wish every success and happiness to Anne Kelleher for the future and to welcome Dr Marie Griffin to her new role.

Outgoing Principals and Deputy Principals

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.

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CEIST News



CEIST Induction Day for Newly Appointed Principals and Deputy Principals

CEIST is providing an Induction Day for our recently appointed Principals and Deputy Principals on **Tuesday the 12th of August 2014**.

The induction day will be held in [Scoil Christ Ri, Portlaoise](#) and we are grateful for the generosity of the school in hosting the event. Presentations to the attendees will be provided by CEIST Staff Members.

The induction day will be an opportunity for the newly appointed Principals and Deputy Principals to meet staff in the CEIST Education Office and gain a stronger understanding of the Trust and of the services it provides to the schools and to network with their peers in other CEIST Schools.



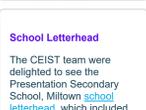
Education Matters



Uninsured Contractors Schools Pay the Cost

In these challenging economic times, funding maintenance work and/or small building projects can erode or indeed exhaust a school's financial resources and consequently there is renewed focus on obtaining value for money. Very often the Contractor who presents the cheapest quotation is awarded the contract or because of the low value of the contract the need for adopting prudent risk controls is overlooked. However, experience has shown that adopting either approach can have serious implications for the school involved.

Allianz have issued the following [guidelines](#) for schools negotiating contracts for building and repair projects.



School Letterhead

The CEIST team were delighted to see the Presentation Secondary School, Milltown [school letterhead](#) which included the CEIST logo.

We would be greatly encouraged if all of our schools could include our logo on their letterhead and we would be glad to assist in any way.

Vatican Document

The following is a very interesting publication titled ["Congregation for Catholic Education: Educating Today and Tomorrow, A Renewing Passion"](#).

2015 marks the 50th and 25th anniversaries since the publication of two seminal ecclesiastical documents on Catholic Education.

It was against this backdrop that the Vatican published this document which aptly uses as a sub title **"Renewing Passion"**.

Faith-related Issues



Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults

The Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults is a new resource from the Irish Episcopal Conference. Designed to complement the Catechism of the Catholic Church, it is adapted for an Irish audience and written in accessible, easy-to-understand language.

The Adult Catechism responds to the proposal made by the Irish National Directory for Catechesis, *Share the Good News*, that adult faith development should be given priority at this time.

[MORE >](#)

It is an excellent opportunity for our Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairpersons to share ideas and best practice.

We are presently making our preparations for the conference and further details will be added to our website in due course.

News from CEIST Schools



Mercy College Coolock win Up2Us Anti-Bullying Competition

Big Congratulations from CEIST to [Mercy College Coolock](#) on winning the inaugural Up2Us Anti-Bullying Contest 2014.

The #Up2Us campaign is all about young people taking the initiative, themselves, to do something about cyber bullying.

The main objective of the #Up2Us competition is to reward groups doing the most to make their communities more inclusive places by combating bullying and cyber bullying, in particular.

[MORE >](#)

CEIST Education Conference

The ninth annual CEIST Education Conference will be held this year in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone on the **25th & 26th September, 2014**.

It is an excellent opportunity for our Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairpersons to share ideas and best practice.



Presentation Castleisland Student Wins National Writing Competition

The American poet and novelist, May Sarton, said that "anyone who is going to be a writer knows enough at 15 to write several novels".

This is a very appropriate quotation to apply to young writer Wiktorja Kupiec, a student of [Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland, Co. Kerry](#), who was recently shortlisted in the Junior category of the John West writing competition.

An avid reader, Wiktorja was placed in the first 21 candidates out of 10,000 submitted entries.

[MORE >](#)

Minister Ruairi Quinn Visits St Joseph's Tulla

The Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn TD recently visited St Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla, Co. Clare.

[Click here](#) to view photos from the visit.

Killina Presentation Secondary School Achieves Green Flag

Congratulations to Killina Presentation Secondary School, Rahon, Co. Offaly on achieving the Green Flag status and well done to all involved.

[Click here](#) to view green flag group photo.



News from Coláiste Muire, Ballymote

Coláiste Muire Ballymote Dragon

Congratulations to **Emer Lennon** (5th year) on her presentation of her business 'Essential Me' to the Dragons of the Den on Sunday 1st June. Emer deservedly received a bursary to further develop her business.

Maths Award Winner

Congratulations to **Cian Quinn** (1st year) who came second in the Irish Maths Teachers Association Maths Competition held in Carrick-on-Shannon recently.

Cian is pictured below with his teacher Ms. Mary Doohan.



Presentation Milltown Graduation Mass

Presentation Secondary School, Milltown, Co. Kerry recently held their graduation mass.

Leaving Cert pupils and their teachers including school principal Cormac Bonner [are pictured](#) at the end of year Mass. Picture by Don MacMonagle.

Profile your news with CEIST!

CEIST always invites any news items, photos, event profiles, etc from our CEIST community.

If you have a news snippet big or small please email to jwoods@ceist.ie and it will be profiled on our website and e-newsletter.



Latest News from Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel

Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel has very kindly shared their latest news with the Trust.

The school shared some very interesting news items and photos as part of the book "Let the Lantern Shine" that was launched as part of the Bi-Centenary Exhibition celebrating 200 years of the Presentation Sisters in Clonmel.

A Civic Reception was held in the town in April 2014. Mayor Pat English told the gathering that the reception was in recognition of the contribution made by the Presentation Community to Clonmel over the last two centuries. Among the attendance was past teachers and pupils.

[MORE >](#)

The next publication of our e-news is scheduled for **Friday, 29th August**.



St Brigid's Killarney Teachers V Students 2014!

St Brigid's Secondary School, Killarney held a very enterprising teachers vs students dance off at the end of a day of celebration here in the school to mark the end of the school year.

This year, the teachers decided to employ the clever tactic of passing themselves off as students.

Dressed in a variety of blue PE uniforms and school jumpers, each teacher was fully convinced that they'd easily pass for being a fifth year!

[MORE >](#)



Eureka Success In The First MATHletes Challenge

MATHletes Challenge 2014 is a pioneering maths tournament for Ireland based on the Khan Academy approach to learning and teaching maths.

Over three thousand students from Ireland competed in the competition and thirty came from Eureka. The hard work by those students helped Eureka to finish in 5th position at National level and 3rd in Leinster.

[MORE >](#)



CEIST Schools Awarded Amber Flag

[Sacred heart Secondary School, Clonakilty](#) and [Mercy Secondary School, Ballymation](#) were awarded the Amber Flag recently by the IGC and Suicide Aware.

The AMBER FLAG initiative aims to encourage Schools/Colleges/Clubs/Societies/Organisations to promote and actively bring about a culture change in the promotion of positive mental health within the educational system and other organisations.

It is to enhance the already good work that is going on where mental health is concerned by offering an award.



Mt St. Michael Claremorris Achievements Day 2014

On May 16th staff and students from Mt St. Michael Secondary School, Claremorris, Co. Mayo celebrated the experiences and achievements they had during the school year.

It was a busy year and there was much to be celebrated.

[MORE >](#)



Turas Scoile go Learpholl

The following is an interesting article from Caoimhe Ni Chonghaile a student in [Coláiste Chroí Mhuire](#), An Spideal, Co. na Gaillimhe.

Caoimhe who is in Transition Year has written a blog about their school trip to Liverpool.

[MORE >](#)



Milk It Award Winners

On Thursday 15th May Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Athy Transition Year team of Emma Owens, Eadaoin Burgess, Ellen Purcell, Anna Cully, Clodagh Walsh and Adam Ryan scooped the top overall prize at the National Milk It Awards.

This competition is sponsored by the National Dairy Council. A total of 358 teams from all over Ireland entered this competition.

The [Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Athy](#) team was called sMOOlicious and their brief was to set up an advertising agency and improve dairy consumption in their school.

[MORE >](#)



Teachers receive ASTI awards for outstanding contributions

Una O'Brien, a teacher of music at CEIST school, [Presentation College, Currylea](#), Tuam, received a 2014 ASTI Achievement Award for her outstanding contribution to music in her school and her community.

This has included a number of awards for Presentation College, Currylea including Best Orchestra in the Galway University Musical Awards and the Connsacht Tribune Award for Best Musical Accompaniment.

[MORE >](#)



Two CEIST Schools to represent Ireland at F1 in Schools World Championship

Photon Racing from Presentation College Headford and **Renaissance Racing** from Presentation College Carlow will join **Autolaunch Racing**, also from Presentation College Carlow at Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi this winter.

The **F1 in Schools** Technology Challenge is a global education initiative, run in Ireland by the Irish Computer Society, that challenges students to design, make, market, and race model sized F1 cars using CAD technology.

[MORE >](#)



St Joseph's Navan TY End of Year Retreat

Transition Years, along with Ms Mhac an tSaoir, Ms Mullins and Mr Feeley made their way to Glendalough on the glorious sunny morning of May 6 for their end-of-year retreat.

The retreat was led by Fr Michael Rodgers, who has lived and worked in Glendalough for the past twenty years.

The retreat was a great occasion to take time out of the busy end-of-year schedule with its many projects and assessments.

[MORE >](#)



St Columba's College Stranorlar - Prizegiving 2014

[St Columba's College](#), Stranorlar, Co. Donegal recently held their **Prizegiving 2014 ceremony**.

Congratulations to all of the students who received awards at the event.

The school were very grateful to their guest speaker, Sr Nellie Mc Laughlin and to the performers and the hard working committee who organised the event.

[MORE >](#)



Awards Day at Scoil Muire agus Padraig, Swinford

[Scoil Muire agus Padraig, Swinford](#) recently celebrated their annual awards day and very kindly shared the following photos of students who received awards.

[MORE >](#)



Mercy Secondary School, Inchicore Graduation Mass

Mercy Secondary School, Inchicore, Dublin 6th year students recently celebrated their Graduation Mass.

The school has included some nice photos and a video from the graduation ceremony on their website.

[MORE >](#)



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Latest News From CEIST

Friday 27th June 2014

CEIST would like to wish every success and happiness to Anne Kelleher for the future and to welcome Dr Marie Griffin to her new role.

Outgoing Principals and Deputy Principals

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 27/6/2014)

Sr. Nuala O'Leary (Presentation Secondary School, Listowel), Ms. Mary Quinn (Scoil Muire agus Pádraig, Swinford), Ms. Mary Caffrey (Sacred Heart Secondary School, Drogheda), Ms. Margaret McCormack (St Brigid's Secondary School, Killarney), Mr. Gerard McGuill (Our Lady's Secondar School, Castleblayney), Sr. Síor Cosgrove, RSM (St Mary's College, Arklow), Ms. Ann Doherty (St Mary's Secondary School, Charleville), Mr. James Whyte (Presentation Secondary School, Headford), Ms. Gillian O'Callaghan (Scoil Carmel, Limerick), Ms. Eileen Kennelly (Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland).

Outgoing Deputy Principals (As Of 27/06/2014)

Ms. Fatima O'Flaherty (St Mary's Secondary School, Ballina), Ms. Miriam Folan (St Paul's Secondary School, Oughterard), Ms. Jacinta Owens (St Joseph's Secondary School, Rush), Ms. Colette Power (Ard Scoil na nDéise, Dungarvan), Ms. Bernadette Daly (Presentation Secondary School, Mitchelstown), Ms. Una Byrne (Meán Scoil Mhuire, Longford), Ms. Mary O'Rourke (St Brigid's Secondary School, Killarney), Ms. Helen Kelly (Presentation Secondary School, Ballyphehane), Ms. Elizabeth McNally (Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda), Ms. Margaret Moore (Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Waterford).

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Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults

Wednesday 18th June 2014

The Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults is a new resource from the Irish Episcopal Conference.

Designed to complement the Catechism of the Catholic Church, it is adapted for an Irish audience and written in accessible, easy-to-understand language.

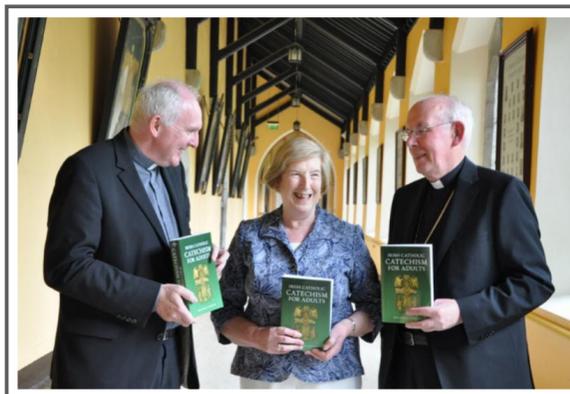
The Adult Catechism responds to the proposal made by the Irish National Directory for Catechesis, Share the Good News, that adult faith development should be given priority at this time.

The Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults presents Irish Catholics with a renewed opportunity to study, reflect on and live by the faith we profess in the Creed, celebrate in the Sacraments, live in the Christian moral life and deepen through prayer.

Each chapter begins with a 'Story or Lesson of Faith', featuring many notable figures from Ireland, such as Edmund Rice, Catherine McAuley and Nano Nagle.

These stories and lessons present the richness of the Church's teaching within the Irish cultural context.

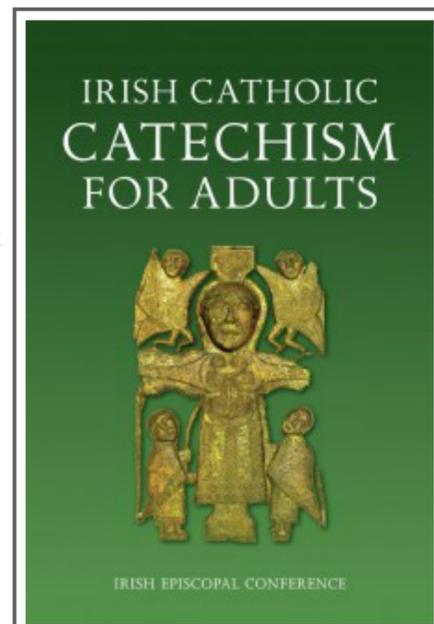
This catechism is for adults who wish to renew or learn more about their faith, including:



- Parish Study Groups
- Retreat Groups
- Liturgy Committees
- RCIA Groups
- Those interested in personal study

It also provides information about the Catholic faith to other interested readers.

Click [here](#) to purchase on Veritas website.





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Mercy College Coolock win Up2Us Anti-Bullying Competition

Thursday 26th June 2014



Pictured above #Up2Us Anti-Bullying contest winners - Mercy College Coolock

Big Congratulations from CEIST to [Mercy College Coolock](#) on winning the inaugural Up2Us Anti-Bullying Contest 2014.

The #Up2Us campaign is all about young people taking the initiative, themselves, to do something about cyber bullying.

The main objective of the #Up2Us competition is to reward groups doing the most to make their communities more inclusive places by combatting bullying and cyber bullying, in particular.

The standard of entries to the competition was extremely high and judges were very impressed by the multi-faceted approach taken by the students from Mercy College Coolock to raise awareness around the issues of internet safety and bullying.

Raise awareness around cyber bullying and internet safety

Not only did the Mercy College girls create a video (see below) on the risk of cyber bullying and on the precautionary steps students should take to avoid being cyber bullied but they also organised a week of exciting awareness raising events to coincide with Safer Internet Day.

From giving presentations at assembly time to running competitions, from conducting a survey to holding a Random Acts of Kindness (RASK) day these girls did it all!

The students beat off some strong competition from another CEIST school, Presentation College Carlow, St Mary's Holy Faith in Killester, Derrinturn Foroige Club and Bishopstown Community School, all of whom were Highly Commended by the judges.



Prize is a mini music festival

To celebrate winning the #Up2Us Anti-Bullying Contest the Mercy College students can now look forward to hosting a Mini Music Festival, starring singer songwriter, Gavin James, in their school in September as their prize.



Click [here](#) to view article which describes in detail the activities undertaken by Mercy College Coolock.

This [link](#) provides more details on the competition.

(Special thanks to [Webwise](#) for providing article and photos)

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Presentation Castleisland student Wins National Writing Competition

Monday 9th June 2014

Wiktorja Kupiec

A Student in Presentation Secondary School Castleisland

The American poet and novelist, May Sarton, said that 'anyone who is going to be a writer knows enough at 15 to write several novels'.

This is a very appropriate quotation to apply to young writer Wiktorja Kupiec, a student of [Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland, Co. Kerry](#) who was recently shortlisted in the Junior category of the John West writing competition.

An avid reader, Wiktorja was placed in the first 21 candidates out of 10,000 submitted entries.

This was a huge achievement by any means, but even more so when one considers that Wiktorja came to Ireland from Poland eight years ago and that English is in fact her second language.

The final of the competition was held in Dublin on May 14th.

Wiktorja won the Junior Section of the Award.

We wish Wiktorja every success both in the competition itself and in her future 'writing career'

Summer Newsletter

Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland have very kindly shared their excellent summer newsletter with CEIST.

Click on link below to download.

[Presentation Castleisland Summer Newsletter](#)



Our SCHOOL is a voluntary Catholic secondary school for girls only under the Trusteeship of CEIST. We strive to be a centre of growth and development. Our AIM is an education for life and living, which is realistic and challenging. Our INSPIRATION is the Christian vision, which fosters the dignity and value of every human being.



TEACHERS VS STUDENTS 2014

The annual teachers vs students dance off took place at the end of a day of celebration here in the school to mark the end of the school year, and a selection of photos can be found on our gallery section. This year, the teachers decided to employ the clever tactic of passing themselves off as students. Dressed in a variety of blue PE uniforms and school jumpers, each teacher was fully convinced that they'd easily pass for being a fifth year:



Mr. Lyne led the teachers in a variety of extremely complicated and well co-ordinated dance moves:



The students responded with a few moves of their own:



However, the teachers had one final card up their sleeves as they unleashed their secret weapon. Our celebrity guest for this year was none other than Conchita Wurst of Eurovision fame. Conchita gave a rousing performance before posing for a few photographs with the school community:



And if anybody has any doubt who won the dance off, one just has to look at this student's reaction to find out:



Thanks to everybody involved in making the Awards Day such a special occasion. Have a wonderful summer!



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Latest News from Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel

Thursday 26th June 2014

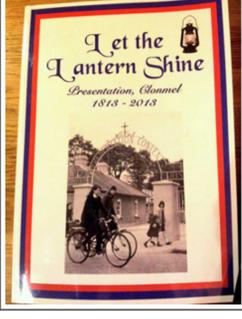
Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel has very kindly shared their latest news with the Trust.

Bi Centenary Exhibition and Book Launch "Let the Lantern Shine"

Clonmel museum are hosting a photo and visual exhibition dedicated to the Presentation Sisters as well as the primary and secondary schools that have educated thousands of children in the past two centuries.

The exhibition includes 1,500 images including photos and images displayed on screens, covering school trips, sports days, musicals and all other aspects of life at the Presentation from the early 1900s to the present day.

The exhibition started with the launch of the book "Let the Lantern Shine" compiled by Anne Breen, former Principal. The book is on sale in the school. The exhibition will continue until December 2014.



Civic Reception April 2014

The Presentation Community were the last group to be accorded the highest honour the town could give. The council chamber was packed to capacity as the Borough Council gave the Presentation community its last ever civic community.

Mayor Pat English told the gathering the reception was in recognition of the contribution made by the Presentation Community to Clonmel over the last two centuries. Among the attendance was past teachers and pupils of both schools.

Sr. Marie Stella and Sr. de Sales replied on behalf of the Presentation Community and Mr O'Loughlin (Secondary School Principal) and Ms. Conway (Primary School Principal) replied on behalf of both schools. The mayor presented the sisters with a painting of the convent looking back towards St. Mary's church, acknowledging their current place in the community and remembering where it all started.



Leaving Cert Graduation Mass

Our Assembly Hall was packed to capacity for our Leaving Cert Graduation Mass in May. Fr. John was the celebrant of the mass with considerable input from the R.E. Department - Mr Buckley, Mrs Bolger, Ms. Kathriona Murphy. After the Mass, Mr O'Loughlin, the School Principal addressed the gathering as did Year Head, Mrs Bolger. Chloe Anderson and Zoe O'Brien responded on behalf of the students.

Ailish McCarthy was presented with the Student of the Year Award and Student Peer Award. Sophie McCarthy was the winner of the Leaving Cert Applied Award. Caoimhe Murray was the winner of the Student Leadership award.

Ciara Hackett pictured below was the winner of the CEIST Social Awareness Award.



TY Graduation

TY students presented a night of music, drama and fashion on their graduation night at the end of May.

The TY Student Peer Award was presented to Nadine Mullery Hackman .

Science Department

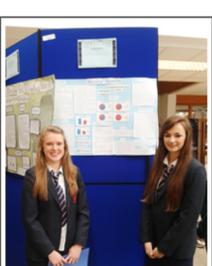
Scifest Waterford. W.I.T
Both Sinead Cosgrave and Brigid Lambert (pictured on right) represented the school in the intermediate category, and Sinead won highly commended which is second prize.

It is our third year in a row that we have finished second in this category.

TY Variety Show

Pres TY Class 13/14 presented "Rhythm of the night" Variety Concert in the Clonmel Park Hotelon Thursday 3rd April at 8pm.

The following acts performed and entertained an enthralled audience. The Drive...Kate Lonergan...Red Melody...Sinead O'Donovan...Kiss me Kate melody...Eoghan Kennedy...Ciara Laste...Alison Condon...Toby Kane...Poppy Kane...Molly Hogan...Ty class...The Ramblers...Ellid Mackey...Ruairi de Leastar...Tara Horan...Tommy Mullins...On Your Toes...Kathy Mullins...provided a great night's entertainment.



Two Costumes qualified for the All Ireland Junk Kouture Final 2014

Two of our six original entries for the Junk Kouture Fashion Competition reached the All Ireland Final which was held in the O2 Dublin on Friday May 2nd 2014.

The whole school has once again embraced this competition and all have been competing, re-cycling and gathering all forms of disposable junk. The 5th and Transition Years have re-vamped, re-worked and created amazing wearable art. The competition attracted an initial 1,500 entries. The girls had to use recycled material for their designs. Two costumes have been selected from the regional finals which took place at the University of Limerick Concert Hall in April. Well done to everyone on achieving such great success.

The costumes are ARTEMIS designed by TY students Carrie Fennessy and Laura Ryan, modelled by Naomh Ryan 5th year, tipped by the presenters at the regional heats as Irelands next super model.

The costume is made from electric wires twine and feathers. The second costume is called Hosiery . It is made from 100% garden hose.

It is designed by Moya O'Dwyer and modelled by Lorna Ni Cheallaigh.



Our Lenten Pilgrimage 2014

Lent is a time to reflect on our relationships with each other and with God. In religion classes during meditation in the sacred space students were asked to think about people they had hurt or times when they were hurt themselves. The religion teachers focused on the quote paraphrased from St John's gospel , "When you hold resentment toward another, you are bound to that person or condition by an emotional link that is stronger than steel. Forgiveness and letting go is the only way to dissolve that link and get free." We all went outside and looked for a stone or pebble to represent the idea that a hurt inside can be heavy and sharp.

The religion department had the idea of making a pilgrimage to St Patrick's Well to symbolise our letting go of our hurts. Making a journey to reflect on life has been part of the Christian Tradition for many centuries. It was once said "As I make my slow pilgrimage through the world, a certain sense of the beautiful mystery seems to gather and grow". A.C. Benson.

On a beautiful day in April we walked as a school community to St Patrick's Well. Sr Marie Stella, Sr Marie Looby and Sr Plus joined us on our Journey. We all gathered around the lake listening to the song Everybody Hurts.

As we made a slow pilgrimage walk around the water we deposited our pebble in an effort to symbolically let go our hurt. When we left this ancient Christian site we were each given a piece of card with a Christian quality written on it to help us focus our lives during the Easter Season.

There was an atmosphere which was charged with reflection and prayerfulness during this special service.

Thanks to all who contributed in any way. Special thanks to Fr Hegarty who gave us all an Easter blessing.





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Eureka Success In The First MATHletes Challenge

Wednesday 4th June 2014

MATHletes Challenge 2014 is a pioneering maths tournament for Ireland based on the Khan Academy approach to learning and teaching maths.

Students from 5th and 6th class in primary school and 1st to 3rd year in secondary school junior cycle competed online through the Khan Academy website, and face to face against their peers, with over €20,000 in prizes and the title of MATHletes Challenge Champion 2014 on offer.

Students participated individually in the Student Challenge and/or with their school in the School Challenge, with top scorers advancing to county, provincial and national finals in May.

Over three thousand students from Ireland competed in the competition and thirty came from Eureka. The hard work by those students helped Eureka to finish in 5th position at National level and 3rd in Leinster.

Thirteen Eureka students qualified for the Leinster Final held in DCU, but unfortunately, three students were cup-tied and had to attend a soccer final. The remaining ten students qualified for the National Final which was held in Dublin on the 24th of May.

The students who competed were:

Carmel Byrne, Ayo Ali, Eva O'Byrne, Antonia Smyth, Jane Murphy (1st year) and Caoimhe Boyce, Danielle Farrelly, Beverly Genocky, Niamh McKenna (2nd year) and Kate Murphy (3rd year).

Everyone was delighted when **Beverly Genocky** finished in 3rd place in the Second Year Individual Category and **Danielle Farrelly** finished in 1st place in this category.

Both girls had worked really hard during the competition and were fully deserving of their prizes.

The competition was supported by entrepreneur Seán O'Suillivan of Dragons Den fame and championed by Ciarán Cannon TD, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills.



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Mt St. Michael Claremorris Achievements Day 2014

Tuesday 24th June 2014

On May 16th staff and students from Mt St. Michael Secondary School, Claremorris, Co. Mayo celebrated the experiences and achievements we had during the school year.

It was a busy year and there was much to be celebrated. Among the many recipients of awards was Shania Mc Donagh who got a standing ovation for her phenomenal success in the Texaco Art Competition and the global acknowledgement of her as one of the foremost portrait artists of the future.

Hannah Alsop was congratulated on her commendation in the Young Scientist Exhibition as was Amy Crean on her achievements in the Sroptimist Public Speaking Competition.

Niamh Kilgallen was applauded on her success in swimming as were our Senior B Volleyball Team who played in the All-Ireland Final. The attributes are endless.

Our key speaker on the day was Anita Reilly who is a past pupil, a native of Hollymount, who left Mount St. Michael in 1997.

Anita has travelled the world setting up educational projects in under developed countries.

She asked our students to be aware of what they had rather than focusing on what they had not.

During the day we had a number of items of entertainment which contributed to our celebration of the excellence that exists in our school.



Pictured above is Danielle Delaney who won Student of the Year 2014.

Click [here](#) for more photos.



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Milk It Award Winners

Wednesday 11th June 2014

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This competition is sponsored by the National Dairy Council. A total of 358 teams from all over Ireland entered this competition.

The Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Athy team was called **sMOOlicious** and their brief was to set up an advertising agency and improve dairy consumption in their school.

The team did this by designing a bicycle powered smoothie maker.

They also had to design a storyboard for a TV advertisement.

As the team have won the overall prize they will now travel to TV 3 and finalise their TV advertisement which will be on screen over the summer months.

Well done to all students and teachers involved and best of luck with the TV advertisement.



The photos above show the winning team when the announcement was made with Mr John McCormack (Principal) and Ms Jackie Cooper (Teacher).

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Teachers receive ASTI awards for outstanding contributions

Sunday 8th June 2014

Two second-level teachers recently received a 2014 ASTI Achievement Award for their outstanding contributions outside the classroom at a reception held in Dublin on May 23rd.

Ciarán Collins, a teacher of English and Irish at Hamilton High School in Bandon, Co. Cork, receive a 2014 ASTI Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to Ireland's literary world. This has included the publication in 2013 of Ciarán's debut novel *The Gamal* which received much critical acclaim.

Una O'Brien, a teacher of music at CEIST school, [Presentation College, Currylea](#), Tuam, received a 2014 ASTI Achievement Award for her outstanding contribution to music in her school and her community. This has included a number of awards for Presentation College, Currylea including Best Orchestra in the Galway University Musical Awards and the Connacht Tribune Award for Best Musical Accompaniment.



Pictured above Presentation College, Currylea teacher Una O'Brien receives a 2014 ASTI Achievement Award from ASTI President Sally Maguire and ASTI General Secretary Pat King.

The ASTI Achievement Awards are presented annually to honour of teachers who not only play an important professional role in their schools, but whose talent, commitment and determination enables them and/ or their students to excel in areas such as sport, literature and music.

Previous award recipients include poet Noel Monahan, rural affairs campaigner and MEP Marian Harkin, and former Ireland rugby coach Eddie O'Sullivan.

Commenting on the 2014 ASTI Achievement Awards, ASTI President Sally Maguire said:

"The work carried out by teachers in the classroom is well recognised. However, what is much less visible is the contribution that teachers all over the country make outside the classroom which has significant benefits for young people, schools, local communities and society as a whole. This contribution plays a vital role in sustaining school communities and indeed entire communities during times of national crisis."



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Two CEIST Schools to represent Ireland at F1 in Schools World Championship

Thursday 19th June 2014



Two more teams have been chosen to represent Ireland at the F1 in Schools World Championships in Abu Dhabi this November.

Photon Racing from [Presentation College Headford](#) and Renaissance Racing from [Presentation College Carlow](#) will join Autolaunch Racing, also from Presentation College Carlow at Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi this winter.

The F1 in Schools Technology Challenge is a global education initiative, run in Ireland by the Irish Computer Society, that challenges students to design, make, market, and race model sized F1 cars using CAD technology.

The two teams were chosen as wildcards having performed well at the F1 in Schools Irish National Final in Dublin Castle on May 2nd, with Photon Racing winning 2nd place in the Senior Category and Renaissance winning the Junior Category.

Renaissance Racing is entering as a collaboration team after pairing up with Team Tachyon from Dubai who finished 2nd Place in the United Arab Emirates National Final.

The Irish branch of the F1 in Schools challenge began as a response to a recognised skills shortage in computing and engineering, with technology courses having had experienced a significant decline in CAO applications over a number of years.

This is the fourteenth year running for the leading global education initiative, which now incorporates over 25,000 schools from 40 different Countries.

The three teams will hope to emulate the success of the last Irish team to win the World Finals, 'The Koni Kats' from St. David's Secondary School in Greystones in the 2009 Finals in London.



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St Joseph's Navan TY End of Year Retreat

Monday 23rd June 2014

Transition Years, along with Ms Mhac an tSaoir, Ms Mullins and Mr Feeley made their way to Glendalough on the glorious sunny morning recently for their end-of-year retreat.

The retreat was led by Fr Michael Rodgers, who has lived and worked in Glendalough for the past twenty years.

The day started with a visit to the Interpretative Centre, from where they went to the newly-constructed labyrinth.

This is a winding path which allows the walker to focus on nothing else except being in the presence of the Lord, and to journey, one step at a time.



From there they visited St Kevin's Well and St Saviour's Church, both off the usual tourist path.

After lunch at the lake they entered the monastic settlement, where they celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Women's Church.

Fr Kevin, who joined us for the day, presided at mass in God's Cottage, with readings and music led by the girls.

The retreat was a great occasion to take time out of the busy end-of-year schedule with its many projects and assessments.



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Awards Day at Scoil Muire agus Padraig, Swinford

Wednesday 11th June 2014

Scoil Muire agus Padraig, Swinford recently celebrated their annual awards day and very kindly shared the following photos of students who received awards.



Pictured above Shane McDonnell being presented with the Mark Grehan Cup for the Best Junior Cert Woodwork Project 2014 by teachers Mr McGettrick and Mr Mitchell.



Ruth Tobin being presented with the Bridie Fitzpatrick Cup for Best Junior Cert Result 2013 by Mr Kilgallon.



David Shiel being presented with the O'Connor Cup for Best Senior Speaker in Debating 2014 by Miss Groarke.



Katrina Armstrong (Student Council Award) presented to the Swinford Tidy Towns in recognition of their contribution to the Community by Carol Friel, Student Council.