



news from ceist...

03 October 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

It has been a very busy time for the Trust since our last e-news at the end of August. We held our annual education conference in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone on the 25 & 26th September and are delighted to announce it was the best attended to date with ninety eight of our schools represented. It was a very successful conference and delegates found it a very useful exercise in meeting with their colleagues and having the opportunity to share ideas and best practice. The joy of the conference was somewhat overshadowed this week with the sad news that two Mercy Sisters had died tragically following a car accident on Tuesday. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Congregation and the families of Sr. Frances Forde and Sr. Marie Duddy.

At this time we are busy preparing at present for an additional induction day for new Principals and Deputy Principals in CEIST Schools to accommodate people who could not attend our last induction day in August. CEIST are also holding a Trustee Support Day for Chairpersons of CEIST School Boards of Management. It will be held in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone on the 18th October.



CEIST News

CEIST Annual Education Conference 2014 - A Review

The CEIST Team were greatly encouraged with the number of School Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairpersons of our Boards of Management who attended this year's conference. Ninety Eight of our one hundred and ten schools were represented at the conference which proved to be our highest school representation to date.

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Information Session for Chairpersons of School Boards of Management

CEIST are holding an Information Session for Chairpersons of School Boards of Management in the Sheraton Athlone Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath on Saturday 18th October.

We are delighted to have as speakers on the day, Mr. Brendan Forde and Dr. Robert Ryan from MedMark.

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Competition

CEIST Schools Excel in Naughton Scholarships

Congratulations to students in our CEIST schools who have won Naughton Scholarship awards this year and indeed students in CEIST schools that were successful in previous years.

The Naughton Scholarships are a scheme of scholarships to promote the study of engineering, science and technology at third level by students in Ireland.

Each year from February to May Leaving Certificate students can apply for a scholarship if they intend studying science, engineering or technology at third level that year.

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Education Matters

Irish youth poll urges priority for health and education for children

Improving health and education of the world's children must be prioritised when international leaders set the next list of Millennium Development Goals, according to a poll of young people here by children's charity Unicef.

Minister for Children James Reilly was presented with the results of the online survey of 2,000 young people at a recent Unicef Youth Summit in Dublin. Health topped the list of priorities, followed by education, poverty/hunger, safety from harm and equality. The poll followed a year long Unicef led consultation process on global development issues.

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St Joseph's Rush, Mental Health Awareness Week and Friendship Week

Well done to St Joseph's Secondary School, Rush, Co. Dublin on their successful Mental Health Awareness and Friendship Week.

Numerous events were held in the school over the past week, which helped stimulate important conversations in the school.

National Religious Education Congress

Theme: Sing a New Song

Date - 18th October 2014

Venue: Mater Dei Institute of Education.

Cionliffe Road, Dublin 3

For further information contact:

Patricia O'Sullivan, Conference Secretary

Email: Patricia

CEIST Induction Day for New Principals/Deputy Principals

The Trust is holding a second induction day for our new Principals and Deputy Principals on Wednesday 8th October. It will be a welcome and information day with presentations from the CEIST team outlining their services to CEIST schools.

We are very grateful to St Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary who have kindly agreed to host the event.

FÉILTE 2014 - Saturday, 4 October, RDS, Dublin

FÉILTE, the Festival of Education in Learning and Teaching Excellence, is a celebration of innovation in teaching.

The theme of this year's event is "Talking about teaching: Tearing down the walls".

Click [here](#) for further information.

Profile your news with CEIST!

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

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

The next publication of our e-news is scheduled for **Friday, 31st October.**

Faith-related Issues

Mercy International Centre 20th Anniversary Celebrations

Mercy International Association (MIA), which is an association of the Mercy families around the world, was formed in 1994. It has its headquarters in Baggot Street, where Catherine McAuley opened her first House of Mercy in 1827.

To mark the 20th Anniversary of the opening of the Mercy International Centre (MIC) a week of celebrations was held from the 23rd - 29th September.

It was a celebration of Mercy in the 40+ countries, where Sisters of Mercy and their partners in ministry live, work and pray.

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News from CEIST Schools

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A decision was taken this year to delay handing out Junior Cert results until the end of the school day while students went for a hike in Glendalough.

The Principal, Mr McCormack, explained in a letter to parents the thinking behind this initiative...

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Caritas College get going by getting rowing!

Caritas College, Ballyfermot, Dublin has opened its own rowing room thanks to the Women in Sport/Rowing Ireland's 'Get Going Get Rowing Initiative'.

The room previously used for storage, had its lumpy floor repaired by a local builder so that the five rowing machines could be installed.

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Killina Presentation Secondary School Goes Global/International

In June 2015, three teachers and ten students from Killina Presentation Secondary School, along with one member of the Global Education Experience (GEE), will make the long journey from the midlands of Raham, Co. Offaly to the small town of Kaoma in the Western Province of Zambia in southern Africa.

The aim of the programme is to develop an appreciation for all that we have, and to experience firsthand the inequalities that exist in the world. The group will then share their experiences with the school and community upon returning home.

[MORE](#)

Mount St Michael Secondary School, Rosscarbery, Students Excel in Poetry and Cookery Competitions

Congratulations to 3rd year student Sarah McCarthy who was second in the All-Ireland Write a Poem competition. Sarah is a pupil of Mount St Michael Secondary School, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork.

Sarah travelled to Portlaoise at the end of the month to collect her award.

Well Done also to Julieanne Williamson and Mary McCarthy in Transition Year who were second in the West Cork Cookery competition and got the prize for the Best Dessert!

[MORE](#)

News from Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney

The following news snippets were kindly shared with CEIST by Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.

The school were delighted to profile two students, Aoife and Alanna who received sports scholarships to NUI Maynooth and also a past pupil, Mr. Eddie Kelly becoming Principal of the school.

[MORE](#)

Our Lady's Belmullet Schoolboys Beat the Bloodstock Giants!

Four students from Our Lady's Secondary School, Belmullet, Co. Mayo have taken on and beaten the giants of Irish bloodstock in the white heat of the thoroughbred sales.

The spectacular coup began as a Transition Year project and ended last week in the auction ring at the prestige Tattersalls yearling sales at Fairyhouse.

[MORE](#)

Pres Waterford Carry Irish Hopes in World Schools Basketball Championship!

As the current 2014 U16 'A' All-Ireland League Champions Presentation Secondary School Waterford have been selected to represent Ireland in the World Schools Basketball Championships which are to be held next April in Limoges, France.

The girls will be facing the best schools from over 20 countries such as China, Greece, Canada, Germany and Spain!

[MORE](#)

Mercy Secondary Ballymahon Mercy Student Receives 12As in Junior Cert

There was plenty of excitement across the county this morning, as news broke that one student had received 12As in the 2014 Junior Certificate Examinations.

A student of Mercy Secondary School, Ballymahon, Emma Donohoe, daughter of Annie and Paul, is one of just four students nationwide to achieve such a feat.

"It's absolutely fantastic," said Principal Josephine Donohoe. "We're thrilled for her."

[MORE](#)

Christ King Girls Cork Celebrate Mass for New School Year

Christ King Girls Secondary School, Cork gathered to celebrate the Mass of the New School Year on Tuesday 23rd September 2014.

CEIST are very grateful to the school for sharing their excellent photos from the gathering.

[MORE](#)

Eureka Secondary School Students Excel in Leaving Cert

It was yet another bumper year for points in Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath with 20 students scoring more than 500 points in their Leaving Certificate and getting their courses in Trinity College, UCD, DCU, NUI Galway and St Patrick's College Drumcondra.

A broad spectrum of courses have been taken up by these students including Food & Agribusiness, Dentistry, Law, Radiography, Psychology, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Business, Science and Primary Teaching.

All our students did exceptionally well in the Junior Cert also and our top student got a grade A in all her subjects.

[MORE](#)

Latest News from Presentation Secondary School, Thurles

CEIST are very grateful to Presentation Secondary School, Thurles for sharing their recent news and photos.

Presentation Secondary School, Thurles recently celebrated the opening of new extension and refurbishment of existing rooms.

Students also enjoyed success in an Agricultural Science competition.

[MORE](#)

News from Presentation Secondary School, Mitchelstown

Presentation Secondary School, Mitchelstown have very kindly shared the following news with CEIST.

Students have been busy raising funds for charity by participating in events such as the Cork City Mini Marathon and Mud Run with the Lions club to name but a few!

[MORE](#)

Reflecting CEIST Values

CEIST Schools honoured by Cycle Against Suicide

To coincide with Suicide Awareness Week, an awards ceremony recognising the achievements of schools - North and South - was held Friday 12th September at the Department of Education by Cycle Against Suicide.

At the special reception a number of CEIST schools were awarded the status of 'Ambassador School' by Cycle Against Suicide, in recognition of their exceptional commitment in the promotion of positive mental health and their efforts to break the cycle of suicide on the island of Ireland.

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CEIST Annual Education Conference 2014 - A Review

Tuesday 30th September 2014

The Ninth Annual Education Conference was held in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath on Thursday, 25th & Friday, 26th September, 2014. The theme for this year's conference was **Living the message of Pope Francis in CEIST Schools**.

The CEIST Team were greatly encouraged with the number of School Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairpersons of our Boards of Management who attended this year's conference. Ninety Eight of our one hundred and ten schools were represented at the conference which proved to be the highest school representation to date.

There was a great sense of community at the conference and our Principals, Deputy Principals and School Board of Management Chairpersons availed of the opportunity to network and share ideas with each other. We received very positive feedback about our keynote speaker, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland and indeed for all of our four workshops.

CEIST would like to very much thank our workshop presenters for their time and energy given to the conference. CEIST also are very grateful to Dr Clare Maloney for her closing address, **Stories for Leaders**.

We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to the two excellent school choirs who participated at the conference.

The two schools who participated were **Presentation Secondary School, Ballyphehane, Co. Cork, and Presentation Secondary School, Currylea, Tuam, Co. Galway**. Both choirs were superb and really energised everybody at the conference and were a credit to the schools.

CEIST are also very grateful to the many exhibitors that displayed their products and indeed this year so great was the demand for exhibitor space that we unfortunately could not accommodate all requests.



Pictured above at the CEIST Education Conference are Back Row (LtoR), The Very Rev Canon Brendan Kilcoyne, PP, Sr. Helena O'Dongohue, RSM, Sr. Peggy Collins, RSM, Mr. Liam Bergin, Educena CEO, Sr. Margarita Ryan, PBVM, Mr. Gene O'Sullivan.

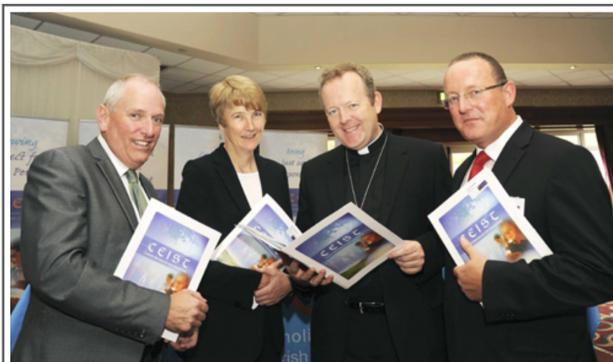
Front Row (LtoR), Sr. Canice Hanrahan, RSM, Dr. Marie Griffin, CEIST CEO, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, Mr. Bernard Keeley, CEIST Board of Directors Chairperson and Sr. Ella McGuinness, RSM.



Pictured above the excellent Presentation College Currylea Choir who gave an outstanding performance at the CEIST conference.



Pictured above are the double All Island School Choir winners, Presentation Secondary School, Ballyphehane choir with Archbishop Eamon Martin, School Principal, Vincent O'Grady, Deputy Principal, Mrs. Jennifer O'Keefe and Music teacher, Ms. Anne Dunphy.



Pictured above are Mr. Bernard Keeley, Chairperson CEIST Board of Directors, Dr. Marie Griffin, CEIST CEO, Archbishop Eamon Martin and Mr. Liam Bergin, Educena CEO.

Archbishop Eamon Martin Conference Address

[Archbishop Eamon Martin Conference Address](#)

Feedback from the Conference

We are in the process of compiling a summary from evaluation sheets returned by attendees. Many thanks to all of you who completed as this feedback will be invaluable in planning future conference programmes.

The general consensus from the evaluation feedback was that the Hodson Bay Hotel was an ideal venue because of its central location and top class services provided by the hotel. Also the workshops were very favourably received but some delegates would have liked more time allocated to them. Delegates in their evaluations expressed how enjoyable and useful the conference was for networking with their peers and sharing ideas and best practice.

Conference Photo Gallery

[CEIST Education Conference 2014 Photo Gallery](#)



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Information Session for Chairpersons of School Boards of Management

Wednesday 1st October 2014

CEIST are holding an Information Session for Chairpersons of School Boards of Management in the Sheraton Athlone Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath on Saturday 18th October.

We are delighted to have as speakers on the day, Mr. Brendan Forde and Dr. Robert Ryan from MedMark.

The Full Agenda is as follows;

Time	Event	Speaker
09.30 - 10.00	Registration and Coffee	
10.00 - 10.15	Opening Prayer & Welcome	Bernard Keeley, Chairperson CEIST Board of Directors
10.15 - 10.40	Catholic Identity in our Schools – Board Responsibilities	Marie Griffin
10.40 - 11.20	The Board of Management and Effective Governance	Justin Brown
11.20 - 11.35	Tea & Coffee	
11.35 - 12.15	Role of the Chairperson	Brendan Forde
12.15 – 13.00	BoM Financial Management	Bernadette McKeown
11.45 - 12.00	Tea & Coffee	
13.00 – 14.00	Staff Welfare - MedMark	Dr. Robert Ryan
14.00	Lunch	



Information Session for Chairpersons of School Boards of Management Saturday, October 18th 2014 Sheraton Athlone Hotel



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CEIST Schools Excel in Naughton Scholarships

Wednesday 1st October 2014



Congratulations to the students in our CEIST schools who have won Naughton Scholarship awards this year and indeed students in CEIST schools that were successful in previous years.

What are the Naughton Scholarships?

The [Naughton Scholarships](#) are a scheme of scholarships to promote the study of engineering, science and technology at third level by students in Ireland.

Each year from February to May Leaving Certificate students can apply for a scholarship if they intend on studying science, engineering or technology at third level that year.

CEIST Schools Awarded Naughton Scholarships 2014

- Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare
- Scoil Dara, Kilcock, Co. Kildare
- Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise
- Mercy Secondary School, Ballymahon, Co. Longford
- St Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk, Co. Louth
- Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan

CEIST Schools - Multiple Naughton Scholarship Award Winners

The following are a list of CEIST Schools who attended the awards day last Saturday and who have won previous Naughton Scholarships.

- Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise (2013 & 2014)
- St Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk, Co. Louth (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014)
- Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan (2010, 2012, 2013, 2014)

Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney won Gold and Silver in 2012!

The Naughton Scholarships were introduced to counties on a phased basis, hence not all schools were eligible from the beginning of this competition.

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Irish youth poll urges priority for health and education for children

Thursday 2nd October 2014



Students from 5th year in **Presentation College Currylea, Tuam** with their teacher Doreen Gurney (left) and Unicef chairman Paul Connolly, Minister for Children James O'Reilly and executive director of Unicef Ireland Peter Power at a day long Youth Summit at Dublin Castle recently.

Improving health and education of the world's children must be prioritised when international leaders set the next list of Millennium Development Goals, according to a poll of young people here by children's charity Unicef.

Minister for Children James Reilly was presented with the results of the online survey of 2,000 young people at a Unicef Youth Summit in Dublin. Health topped the list of priorities, followed by education, poverty/hunger, safety from harm and equality. The poll followed a year long Unicef led consultation process on global development issues.

Five children's ambassadors from Zambia joined the 150 young Irish, who came from 13 schools and five youth groups, in releasing dozens of blue balloons at Dublin Castle symbolising their wishes for a better world for children.

Minister Reilly said the Government fully subscribed to the poll priorities, describing them as the "core values" of this Republic.

The five priorities were discussed by five of the young people earlier this week with Minister for Foreign Affairs Charlie Flanagan who will communicate them to next week's UN General Assembly in New York which will set the next Millennium Development Goals after the current targets expire next year.

While it remains unacceptable 8,000 children die each day, progress has been made internationally towards reducing child mortality and improving access to education and equality, Minister Reilly told the summit.

According to the Unesco 'Sustainable Development' report, the number of deaths of children under five fell from 12.6 to 6.6 million between 1990 and 2012. The report also found maternal education made a much more significant contribution than economic growth to reducing child mortality.

Peter Power, executive director of Unicef Ireland, said the summit was "about taking action for children all around the world". It was clear young people here believe health and education are the key to lifting millions of children out of poverty, he said.

Kaitlyn Maher told the summit Ireland's youth had decided their priorities and their job now was to "stand tall" and push for their targets to be achieved. This project was to ensure young people "have a stake in our planet and our future", Hugh Creaton added.

Rachel Whelan of Glenageary, Dublin, a first year student at Newpark School, was one of the five representatives who met with Mr Flanagan and said she got involved in the Unicef project because she wanted "to make a change in the world".

Josephine Pumulo, a teenager and Unicef Private Ambassador for Climate Change from Zambia, said she wanted to support Unicef in getting world leaders to "walk the talk". She believed education was key to world development because people who are fully informed "make healthy decisions".



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Mercy International Centre 20th Anniversary Celebrations

Thursday 2nd October 2014

Mercy International Association (MIA), which is an association of the Mercy families around the world, was formed in 1994. It has its headquarters in Baggot Street, where Catherine McAuley opened her first House of Mercy in 1827.

To mark the 20th Anniversary of the opening of the Mercy International Centre (MIC) a week of celebrations was held from the 23rd – 29th September. Mercy Day falls on the 24th September and was celebrated by all CEIST schools in the Mercy tradition.

It was a celebration of Mercy in the 40+ countries, where Sisters of Mercy and their partners in ministry live, work and pray. It focused in particular on the three areas in which MIA is engaged -

- **Displacement of peoples/homelessness**
- **The environment**
- **Opposing human trafficking**

Each day of the celebrations, the rituals at Mercy International Centre MIC were streamed live and are now available on the Mercy World website www.mercyworld.org. These rituals can be downloaded from the website and may be a useful resource for schools preparing prayer services.

The main events of the celebrations were also streamed live and can be accessed on the website for viewing or download.

Photographic Exhibition

On the 25th September a major photographic exhibition titled 'The Face of Mercy Across the World Today' was officially opened by President Michael D. Higgins.

Schools are welcome to [visit this exhibition](#), which will take them on a journey of discovery across the world to the places where Sisters of Mercy and their partners are at work, committed to justice and peace among the marginalised of our world. Visits can be arranged with Madeline at Baggot Street, 01-6618061.

Mercy World Articles/Archived Videos

[Telling the Story of the Establishment of MIA & Centre](#)

['Dancing, Singing, Circling': Celebrating Mercy Day 2014](#)

Click [here](#) to view a very interesting article on a day of celebration in Mercy International Centre, which included a visit by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins.

Click [here](#) to view archived video streams of the week long Mercy celebrations.

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Ardcoil na Tríonóide, Athy Students Head for the Hills on Results Day!

Monday 22nd September 2014

A decision was taken this year to delay handing out Junior Cert results until the end of the school day while students went for a hike in Glendalough.

The Principal, Mr McCormack, explained in a letter to parents the thinking behind this initiative...

"Over the past few years, we have become increasingly aware of the many issues around the distribution of results and the safety of our young students. It can also be extremely difficult for them to concentrate on their studies during the morning as their nerves may be tingling in anticipation. We, as educators are concerned about handing out results too early, especially when parents are working and unable to collect their child from school.

To counteract these issues we have decided this year to delay the distribution of result until 3 pm. and to take all of the students away on the day for a hike to Glendalough. We believe that this fun day will be a lovely way for students to enjoy themselves under teacher supervision and also to give them a chance to walk off any nerves they may have with their friends"

On their return, students were delighted with their results. Opinion on the hike was very positive; one student felt "the hike helped take away the nervousness" while another expressed the view it "was hard enough but it kept us busy". Other students admitted they were not looking forward to the hike or were nervous about it but said "it kept us calm and took our mind off everything"

While one parent expressed concern it may "put too much pressure on the kids" the overall consensus among parents was very positive with one parent saying it was a 'brilliant idea' and hoped they "would all sleep tonight"

To celebrate their success students had planned to do a variety of things with family and friends but before any of that could happen, one student said he would have to go home and milk the cows first!

Photos



Photos above include students with family and friends collecting results after their hike to Glendalough (photographs courtesy of the Kildare Nationalist newspaper).



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Caritas College get going by getting rowing!

Friday 3rd October 2014

Caritas College, Ballyfermot, Dublin has opened its own rowing room thanks to the Women in Sport/Rowing Ireland's 'Get Going Get Rowing Initiative'.

The room previously used for storage, had its lumpy floor repaired by a local builder so that the five rowing machines could be installed.

A lick of paint and the new rowing room was ready to open its doors, with builder Lar Callaghan cutting the ribbon.

"As a school, we've been involved in rowing for 20 years.

Every student in transition year gets six weeks on the water at the Municipal Rowing Centre at Islandbridge.

"So when we heard that these machines were on offer we were very keen", says PE teacher Mary Ryan.

Apart from using the machines for PE, the school has set up a Wednesday afternoon rowing club, as well as parents' and teachers' clubs.

They also aim to take on other schools in regattas over the next few months.

Looking after the 'Get Going Get Rowing' scheme for Rowing Ireland is former international rower Michelle Carpenter.

"We have 15 schools involved already, and a six-week pilot programme in Carlow, which will see transition year students teaching first year students," she says.

Schools involved include another CEIST school, St Leo's College, Carlow and Gaelcholaiste Cheatharlach.

Fancy rowing at your school? Contact Michelle at michelle.carpenter@rowingireland.ie

(article courtesy of evening herald).





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Killina Presentation Secondary School Goes Global/International

Tuesday 30th September 2014

In June 2015, three teachers and ten students from Killina Presentation Secondary School, along with one member of the Global Education Experience (GEE), will make the long journey from the midlands of Raham, Co. Offaly to the small town of Kaoma in the Western Province of Zambia in southern Africa. Over the course of two and a half weeks, the group will immerse themselves in the culture and customs of life in a developing country. There, they will visit local towns and villages, schools and orphanages, farms and businesses, while observing the tireless work being done by the Presentation Sisters in very challenging conditions. The aim of the programme is to develop an appreciation for all that we have, and to experience firsthand the inequalities that exist in the world. The group will then share their experiences with the school and community upon returning home.

This is the maiden voyage for the school, having just recently created links with Kaoma and surrounding areas of Zambia through the encouragement of principal John Cotter, who initially proposed the programme to the staff. In his previous school, John led students to another town in Zambia on a number of occasions, and is fully backing this project. There will be a number of fund raising events in the coming months to cover the costs of the programme.

As this is quite an undertaking, four teachers from Killina, along with two members of the Global Education Experience (GEE), took a whirlwind ten-day fact finding excursion to Zambia and to the places they will visit with students next summer. The following is a condensed version of events.

Day 1

On touching down on the tarmac of Lusaka airport at 11pm on the June 7th 2014, we were warmly greeted by Sr. Angela and Sr. Lynette and driven to the home of the Presentation Sisters on Lusiwasi Road. There, on the outskirts of the capital city in a cosy and well-kept accommodation, some very welcome and unexpected tea and toast was served up for weary but excited minds.

Day 2

Day two in Zambia began with another unexpected surprise: a fry! Once the accommodation grounds were thoroughly investigated and the food devoured, we made the trip to the station for the 1pm bus to Kaoma. This was an introduction to 'Zambia time', where everything is done at one of two speeds: slow or stop! Eventually, after two and a half hours waiting in the glorious sunshine of the bustling bus station, we took our seats for the maiden cross-country voyage through Kafue National Park to the western province and the town of Kaoma. The sighting of two lions and some wild dogs helped raise our curiosity into a different world and life. Another very warm welcome was afforded us at Kaoma bus station, where Sr. Mary and Sr. Inez collected, transported and fed us amidst good conversation and information. After settling in to our new home, we took the time to set up our mosquito nets before heading off to get some well-needed rest.

Day 3

Day three saw us take a trip to the nearby village of Kabanga where the locals quite literally made a song and dance of our arrival. There was a welcoming procession that included song, dance and formal speeches. We explored the village in their company and were treated to the local foods and dishes, including sweet potato, groundnuts, oranges, bananas, kasava (a root vegetable), as well as nshima (ground maize, known locally as melee melee) and relish (made of crushed tomatoes & onions). The warmth of the people that greeted us throughout our time there was truly a humbling experience. After receiving gifts to take with us, we bid farewell and visited local farms. There we witnessed the challenges the farmers face to simply survive, never mind make a living.

Day 4

Day four began with a trip to the local schools and a chance to compare just how different things are from home. At first glance, not very, it seemed. The buildings were in good condition and brightly coloured, and there were whiteboards in classrooms and ample outdoor space. However, when the number of students (1,200+) and teachers (approx. 35) are taken into consideration as well as the lack of access to resources such as textbooks, things become a little more complicated. What was most striking though, was just how well presented, warm and welcoming the staff and students were, in spite of their apparent challenges. There was a decency that was infectious.

Buoyed by our experiences at the schools, we took the chance to visit the Nagle Centre. Here, some of the locals have been trained up by nuns to skillfully make garments, clothes and accessories as well as learning basic business principles. Afterward, a trip to a local project farm was a great learning experience. From rearing ducks, hens, fish and bees to harvesting seeds, nuts, beans and crops it demonstrated what can be achieved on a small plot of land with a lot of hard work, focus and planning. In this mini ecosystem, the results were incredible.

On our final day in the town, we took the opportunity to visit the local orphanage. In what was expected to be a difficult few hours, we were made to feel very welcome from the outset, a song to greet us echoing out the windows as we arrived. We were uplifted by the sense of contentment that the children there exuded. Once again, our own lives had been put in to perspective. Afterwards, we took the time to stroll around the town of Kaoma, taking in the local businesses, restaurants and shops before getting packed and ready to head back to Lusaka the following morning. Our time here, like all good things, was drawing to a close.

What this short trip to Zambia taught us is that we can never take for granted just how good we have it. The people of Zambia, and presumably those of other developing countries, are not nearly as helpless as is often assumed. They have plenty of resources, raw materials, and a wonderful spirit. They face great difficulties in very inspiring and humbling ways. While simply sending money their way can help in some situations, it is not going to solve their problems. Improving education across all areas just might, however. Also what has been learned is that in the face of adversity, humility can still prevail. This trip has been a hugely rewarding and beneficial one, an experience that will no doubt continue to grow in its affection over the coming weeks, months and years. So, until the next time...



Students and teachers from Killina Presentation Secondary School who will travel to Zambia in June.



Killina Teachers Laura Scully and Maureen Connaghan, with students of Sishikano School in Kaoma, Zambia.



Killina teachers (from left) Stella Horan, James Mulligan, Maureen Connaghan and Laura Scully with Sr Mary Moloney (back, centre) and Principal Beatrice Nosiku (front) at Sishikano School, Kaoma, in June last.



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Mount St Michael Secondary School, Rosscarbery Students Excel

Thursday 2nd October 2014

Congratulations to 3rd year student Sarah McCarthy who was second in the All-Ireland Write a Poem competition. Sarah is a pupil of Mount St Michael Secondary School, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork.

Sarah travelled to Portlaoise at the end of the month to collect her award.

Well Done also to Julieanne Williamson and Mary McCarthy in Transition Year who were second in the West Cork Cookery competition and got the prize for the Best Dessert!

Click [HERE](#) to download Sarah's poem.

Photos



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News from Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney

Wednesday 10th September 2014

Sports Scholarships for Aoife and Alanna

Congratulations to Aoife Duffy and Alanna O'Donoghue of the Class of 2014 in Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan on being awarded sports scholarships to NUI Maynooth.

Aoife, daughter of Gene and Angela Duffy, Aughnamullen and member of the Aughnamullen Ladies team has accepted her place in NUI Maynooth to study Primary School teaching.

Alanna O'Donoghue, daughter of Tommy and Deirdre, Derrygasson, Emyvale and member of the Emyvale Ladies will study Arts in Maynooth.

These sports scholarships give both girls priority access to accommodation on campus and offers them a whole range of sporting facilities like health screening, strength & conditioning, nutrition, fitness testing, physio as well as access to the Maynooth training facilities and a financial benefit.

Both girls have been the backbone of the Senior Ladies GAA team in Our Lady's which has enjoyed phenomenal success progressing from Ulster 'C' competitions to Ulster 'A' in as many years, being just pipped at the post in 2014.

Aoife, the recipient of an All Star award in 2014 was Vice-Captain of that team while Alanna was Captain and was also a member of the Monaghan Co. Senior panel which she had to leave due to Leaving Cert study commitments.

Speaking at the school during the week, Principal Mr Eddie Kelly congratulated both Aoife and Alanna and expressed his pride on the girls' achievements.

"A huge congratulations to both girls, Aoife and Alanna. I am delighted to see them get the opportunity to continue their involvement with GAA as they progress to 3rd level and to further hone their skills at this level. They have played an important part in our Senior Ladies team over the last 3 years and I am quite sure this is not the last we have heard of them! Being deeply involved in the GAA life of the school over the years, I would like to acknowledge the commitment and hard work of all the coaches but in this case, Mr Tony Graham, Miss Roisin O'Keefe and Ms Karen Clerkin who have mentored the Ladies teams over the years. Well done to all of you and continued success to Aoife and Alanna."



Pictured above are students Alanna and Aoife.

Past Pupil Appointed as Principal of Our Lady's

Castleblayney native, Mr Eddie Kelly has been appointed to the position of Principal of Our Lady's Secondary School replacing Mr Gerard McGuill who is leaving after 12 years in the role. He is the first past pupil to be appointed to the position and Mr Kelly's appointment was very warmly welcomed by staff, students, parents & the wider community.

Mr Kelly is son of Maria & the late Bosco Kelly of Park Road, Drumillard. He is married to Catherine (nee Finnegan) & they reside in Leonsgarve, Carrickmacross with their three children, Peter, Caoimhe & Cormac. He received his primary education at Castleblayney Boys School & his Primary degree & Teaching Diploma from University College Dublin.

He is widely known in sporting circles having played Gaelic football for many years with his native Castleblayney Faughs.

More recently he has made a name for himself as a coach with Toome, Cremartin & the Faughs as well as being involved in the Management Teams with both Monaghan Under 21's & Minors.

Pictured above outgoing Principal, Mr Gerard McGuill hands over to newly appointed Principal of Our Lady's, Mr Eddie Kelly, native of Castleblayney and past pupil of the school. Mr Kelly carries the good wishes of the entire school community and the wider community as he takes over his new role.



Mr Kelly joined the teaching staff of Our Lady's in 2002 having first served as Student Support Worker with Monaghan Youth Federation attached to Our Lady's. He very quickly established himself & in 2004 took over the History Department where he developed & advanced the subject. Indeed the only reservation expressed by students & parents on his appointment as Principal was that the school was losing an outstanding History teacher.

Mr Kelly committed himself totally to his career in Our Lady's including the promotion of Gaelic Games within the school. He was determined to make Our Lady's a force in Ulster Colleges Football & working with a team of equally committed teachers, he succeeded in doing so. Over the last 12 years the school has won 9 Ulster Titles & an All-Ireland Title in 2005 with a team co-managed by Mr Kelly & Mr Paul Lonergan. During this time 7 students from Our Lady's have received Ulster Colleges All Star Awards.

Mr Kelly has been a Year Head since 2008 & this experience, together with his involvement in all areas of school life over the last 12 years and his unbridled passion for education in general & Our Lady's in particular, make him an ideal appointment as Principal.

Speaking at the school during the week Mr Kelly thanked the school's Board of Management for the confidence & trust it has placed in him & promised to repay this with one hundred percent commitment over the coming years. He went on to say how honoured, proud & humbled he feels, particularly as a local & past pupil, to be taking up this leadership role in Our Lady's. He spoke of how much he is looking forward to working with Deputy Principal, Finbarr Brohan & all the staff.

He went on to pay tribute to the dedication, hard work but most of all commitment to the students of his predecessor, Gerry McGuill. He then spoke about his confidence for the future "I feel privileged to be taking over a school in such excellent shape as Our Lady's & I will work tirelessly with the staff, students & parents to build on what is there & to move our school forward to meet the challenges & embrace the opportunities which we will meet in the coming years. I am extremely lucky to have a staff, teaching & non teaching which is second to none & together we will continue to provide the very best possible education to the young people of the area, who deserve nothing less".

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Our Lady's Belmullet Schoolboys Beat the Bloodstock Giants!

Monday 29th September 2014

Four students from Our Lady's Secondary School, Belmullet, Co. Mayo have taken on and beaten the giants of Irish bloodstock in the white heat of the thoroughbred sales.

The spectacular coup began as a Transition Year project and ended last week in the auction ring at the prestige Tattersalls yearling sales at Fairyhouse.



Pictured above the four students of Our Lady's Secondary School, Belmullet with Tom Kevon.

Patrick Lavelle, Patrick Reilly and David Dixon, all 16, founded Erris Bloodstock as their Transition Year mini company project in Our Lady's Secondary School, Belmullet, Co Mayo.

They were later joined by Patrick Lavelle's 14-year-old brother Sean in their bloodstock adventure. The idea was to buy two foals at Goffs' November Breeding Sale and prepare them for sale as yearlings — a practice known as pinhooking.

The boys sunk their life savings into the project, spending €6,300 on two filly foals. They even gave the foals the pet names 'Renaissance' and 'Frisky' and brought them home to the Erris peninsula to be reared on family farms. And on Thursday the two thoroughbreds, which thrived under the boys' gentle care, were sold for €21,500 — a clear €12,000 profit after feed and others costs were deducted.

"We are delighted. A lot of people were interested in the fillies but we didn't expect 'Renaissance' who is out of 'Fast Company' to make so much. The four of us went up to Tattersalls and we were as nervous as the horses. We got more anxious as the day went on," Patrick Lavelle revealed.

'Renaissance' was bought for €16,500 to race in Saudi Arabia. Joe Foley of Ballyhane Stud bought their second filly 'Frisky' a daughter of 'Dandy Man', for €5,000.

"Joe loved her since she was a foal. We emailed him a picture of her and he loved the look of her. We expected her to make a lower price than the 'Fast Company' filly but we are very happy with the result," he added. They bought 'Frisky' privately for €1,800 after the Goffs' sale.

The Lavelle brothers interest in racing stems from their father who has horses in training with David Marnane. The trainer was a great source of help to them, advising them and taking the fillies in August for their final preparations. David Marnane was brilliant and Peter Kelly of Emerald Bloodstock was a great help picking the foals.

"John Osborne of the Irish National Stud helped enormously, taking us on a tour of the stud, advising us and showing the fillies to as many people as possible at the sales," he says of the advice they received.

They plan to develop their business and are hoping to reinvest the profit in one or two more foals in the upcoming Goffs' sale.

(Article and photo courtesy of the Sunday Independent).



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Pres Waterford Carry Irish Hopes in World Schools Basketball Championship!

Monday 22nd September 2014



ISF Basketball 2015 World Schools Championship

Limoges France

17/04 – 25/04/2015

As the current 2014 U16 'A' All-Ireland League Champions Presentation Secondary School Waterford have been selected to represent Ireland in the World Schools Basketball Championships which are to be held next April in Limoges, France.

The girls will be facing the best schools from over 20 countries such as China, Greece, Canada, Germany and Spain!

The competition will run over 9 days and will include a spectacular opening ceremony, a range of social and cultural activities and of course some very challenging basketball games.

The players are working hard under Coach Jenny Coady and Assistant Coach Alan Barber in preparation for the games, as well as organising a huge range of fund raising events and activities.





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Mercy Secondary Ballymahon Student Receives 12As in Junior Cert

Wednesday 10th September 2014

There was plenty of excitement across the county this morning, as news broke that one student had received 12As in the 2014 Junior Certificate Examinations.

A student of Mercy Secondary School, Ballymahon, Emma Donohoe, daughter of Annie and Paul, is one of just four students nationwide to achieve such a feat.

“It’s absolutely fantastic,” said Principal Josephine Donohue. “We’re thrilled for her.”

High achiever Emma Donohoe didn’t expect 12 A’s when she joined the queue for her Junior Cert Results at Mercy Secondary School Ballymahon, Co Longford.

“It hasn’t sunk in at all, it’s completely surreal,” said Emma (15), from Carrickboy, Co Longford. “My principal was smiling when she handed me the envelope, she didn’t give anything away but I was delighted afterwards.”

The transition year student and talented basketball player doesn’t know what she will go on to study but is very grateful to the school and has high hopes for her Leaving Cert.

School Principal Josephine Donohue described Emma as an “excellent student” and “a very modest all-rounder.”

“We are absolutely thrilled for Emma and her family, she’s a great girl and the world is her oyster”, she said.

Tonight Emma, the eldest of three, will celebrate with a family dinner and a disco afterwards with her classmates in Carrick-on-Shannon.

“My three best friends are coming over to get ready and we having a sleep over tonight, I’m going to make the most of it”, she said.

Emma’s mother Annie Donohoe expressed her, and husband Paul’s, pride in their daughter’s achievement.

“We are very proud of her, she is a hard worker and always had a love of learning”, she said.



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Christ King Girls Cork Celebrate Mass for New School Year

Monday 29th September 2014

Christ King Girls Secondary School, Cork gathered to celebrate the Mass of the New School Year on Tuesday 23rd September 2014.

CEIST are very grateful to the school for sharing their excellent photos below from the gathering.





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Eureka Secondary School Students Excel in Leaving Cert

Monday 22nd September 2014

It was yet another bumper year for points in Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath with 20 students scoring more than 500 points in their Leaving Certificate and getting their courses in Trinity College, UCD, DCU, NUI Galway and St Patrick's College Drumcondra.

A broad spectrum of courses have been taken up by these students including Food & Agribusiness, Dentistry, Law, Radiography, Psychology, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Business, Science and Primary Teaching.

All our students did exceptionally well in the Junior Cert also and our top student got a grade A in all her subjects.



Pictured above with Caroline O'Reilly (Principal) is Eureka Secondary School, Kells top student this year Aoife Mary Brady with 9A's.

Aoife is now doing Transition Year in Eureka.



Pictured above are some of Eureka's top scoring Leaving Certificate students from the Class of 2014.



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Latest News from Presentation Secondary School, Thurles

Wednesday 1st October 2014

CEIST are very grateful to Presentation Secondary School, Thurles for sharing their recent news and photos.

Opening of School Extension

Presentation Secondary School, Thurles recently celebrated the opening of new extension and refurbishment of existing rooms.



Pictured above Minister Alan Kelly and guest Eddie Hobbs opening the refurbished Home Economics room.



Pictured above Mr Eddie Hobbs, Ms Olivia O'Brien, His Grace Archbishop Clifford, Minister Alan Kelly and Ms Kavanagh opening refurbished Science labs.

Agricultural Science Students Success

Congratulations to fifth year students Laura Quigley, Caroline Fogarty, Niamh Houlihan and Aoife Bergin who were announced as one of the five school finalists in the Certified Irish Angus Beef competition.

Their prize is very unique and consists of five Angus heifers. The girls were presented with the calves at the National Ploughing Championships by Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills and Jobs Damien English TD. The calves will be reared to slaughter on Laura's farm in Nenagh. The girls also will also receive a trip to Somerset to visit Blade Farm, which is one of the largest beef farming operations in England.

The girls are studying Agricultural Science for their Leaving Cert, so rearing the calves will provide the ideal opportunity to put the theory from class into practice. The girls are continuing with their project on Meat Quality and Marketing and will present their findings next year.

One school will be chosen as the overall winner and will receive an additional €2000. The competition was sponsored by the Irish Angus Producer Group along with its partners, ABP and Kepak. Congratulations to the girls and their teacher Ms O'Brien.



Pictured above Left to Right : Mr Tim Dunne Chairman Irish Angus Producers Group, Niamh Houlihan, Aoife Bergin, Caroline Fogarty, Laura Quigley and Minister of State Damien English.



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News from Presentation Secondary School, Mitchelstown

Wednesday 1st October 2014

Presentation Secondary School, Mitchelstown have very kindly shared the following news with CEIST.

Cork Mini Marathon 2014

Congratulations to all students who completed the Cork Mini Marathon and raised well needed funds for the Cancer unit in the Mercy hospital in Cork. There was a huge turnout and it was a great success. Many thanks to their teachers Mairin Lally and Winnie Fitzgerald for organising and participating. Congrats to all!



Pictured above Senior Students after completing the Cork mini marathon on Sunday with their teachers Ms Fitzgerald and Ms Lally.



Presentation Mitchelstown TY Students launching the Mud Run on November 1st with the Lions Club.



Pictured above Presentation Mitchelstown Students taking part in different events on European Language day.

Other News

Click [here](#) to view recent news article featured on our website from Presentation Secondary School, Mitchelstown.

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CEIST Schools honoured by Cycle Against Suicide

Tuesday 16th September 2014



To coincide with Suicide Awareness Week, an awards ceremony recognising the achievements of schools - North and South - was held Friday 12th September at the Department of Education by Cycle Against Suicide.

At the special reception a number of CEIST schools were awarded the status of 'Ambassador School' by Cycle Against Suicide, in recognition of their exceptional commitment in the promotion of positive mental health and their efforts to break the cycle of suicide on the island of Ireland.

Representatives of the main Education Bodies, the Education Trusts and the Institute of Guidance Counsellors along with celebrity ambassadors for Cycle Against Suicide Alan O' Mara and Seamus Hennessey, were also in attendance to show their support.

The year-long schools' programme which required schools to fulfill five success criteria was first launched at the Cycle Against Suicide Student Leaders' Congress in January. This event was attended by 4,000 students and 130 schools and was the first of its kind, youth mental health congress in the RDS.

In a statement, Minister for Education and Skills Jan O' Sullivan added her congratulations to the 30 schools and said 'The work of Cycle Against Suicide in schools is of vital importance. We are all only too aware of the tremendous pressures facing young people today. Many of the messages from peers, traditional media, social networks and commercial interests promote the myth that we all have to be the happiest, fittest, shiniest generation that ever walked the earth. Real life is very different.'

Founder of Cycle Against Suicide, Jim Breen said: "On behalf of Cycle Against Suicide, I commend the extraordinary commitment of the 30 Ambassador schools in 2014. Each of them has gone the extra mile to promote the objectives of Cycle Against Suicide, drive awareness and encourage help-seeking behaviour. Together, we are creating a movement that schools, and students in particular, can take a leading role in. Cycle Against Suicide's schools programme provides students with the tools and strengths required to build resilience for their own mental health. It empowers them to ask others are they feeling ok; in the knowledge that it's ok not to feel ok; and it's absolutely ok to ask for help."

CEIST Schools Who Received 'Ambassador School' Status

- Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin
- St Mary's College, Naas
- Presentation Secondary School, Wexford
- St Leo's College, Carlow
- Mercy Mounthawk, Tralee

Photos



Pictured above Principal Marie Therese Kilmartin of Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin with students.



Pictured above are students of Mount Mercy Secondary School, Mounthawk, Tralee with Jim Breen, Founder of Cycle Against Suicide.



Students from Presentation Secondary School, Grogan's Road, Wexford pictured above at the awards day.



Pictured above students and teachers from St Mary's College, Naas.



Students and teachers pictured above from St Leo's College, Carlow.

Click [HERE](#) to view all photos taken of the CEIST Schools that received award.

Further Information

Suicide is claiming the lives of at least 800 people each year on the island of Ireland.

[Cycle Against Suicide](#) is a voluntary organisation that aims to:

- Offer reassurance that it's OK not to feel OK; and it's absolutely OK to ask for help
- Direct people in need to where help is available both locally and nationally

Together, shoulder to shoulder, we can break the Cycle of Suicide on the island of Ireland