



# news from ceist...

27 February 2015

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



### CEIST Schools Win Gold and Silver at Digital Media Awards 2015

Congratulations to [Presentation College Carlow](#) who won the "Digital School of the Year" award at the [Digital Media Awards](#) last Friday night in the DoubleTree by Hilton, Dublin.



CEIST were also delighted to hear of [Coláiste Bríde](#), Clondalkin winning the Silver award for Digital School of the Year. This was a fantastic achievement from both schools and a testament to the amount of strategic planning, dedication and hard work that both schools have obviously put in over a number of years.

The event was so popular on social medium Twitter that it was trending on the night [#dma2015](#)

## CEIST News



### CEIST Meet The Student Council of Scoil Dara, Kilcock

The Education Act 1998 made it a statutory requirement for schools to have a Student Council. We are delighted with the role these Councils play in CEIST schools.

On Monday a member of the Ceist team attended a meeting of the Student Council in Kilcock. The school's Principal Mr. PJ Cannon is retiring after twenty two years at the helm of the Kildare school. Before the recruitment process begins it is customary for the various stakeholders to have an input into the recruitment process.

[MORE](#)

### CESI Conference 2015

The annual conference of the **Computers in Education Society of Ireland** takes place in Galway tomorrow Feb 28th, 2015.

The theme for this year's conference is **Beyond the Horizon – Technology in Education**. The CESI conference is a calendar highlight for those who are interested in integrating technology into their teaching and learning and this year promises to uphold the high standard that has been set by previous CESI events.

Click [here](#) to download the conference flyer for details on keynote speakers and workshops.

### Star of the Sea Summer Schools

Next June up to fifty Pre-Leaving Cert students from all over Ireland will embark on two highly engaging and exciting Faith Development & Religious Education (R.E.) two-week Summer Schools in the sea-side village of Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo.

Each day will be a blend of helpful learning opportunities, outdoor recreational and social activities. There will also be times of prayer and reflection, of rest and relaxation. Weekends will include field trips and outings.

Click [here](#) to view flyer.

### CEIST Schools Twitter List

We have setup a curated twitter list for filtering tweets from CEIST schools.

Click [here](#) to view tweets from our 45 schools on the list.

## Competition



### CEIST Bake Off Update!

The deadline for applications is fast approaching for the CEIST Bake Off. On Wednesday of this week Catherine Leyden, Odlums, visited Ard Scoil Na Troinoide, Athy for a meeting to plan for the grand finale.

Home Economics Teacher Jackie Cooper and the Deputy Principal Margaret Carrick McEvoy represented the school. Justin Brown from CEIST also attended the meeting.

To date 70 entries have been submitted and all the stakeholders - CEIST, Odlums and the school itself are delighted with the huge response.

[MORE](#)



### CEIST Design a Perpetual Award Competition

We were delighted with the number of entries for our "Design a CEIST Perpetual Award" competition. The student entries were of a very high standard and it was wonderful to see the detailed expression of our five CEIST values included in the submitted student designs and associated document descriptions.

The winning student entry from each school received a €50 gift voucher and members of the CEIST team are currently deciding on the overall winner with the help of Sculptor, Mark Ryan from Clonmore, Carlow. The overall winning student design will be announced at our student leadership conference on March 24th.

## Don't Forget



### CEIST Student Leadership Conference 2015 Registration

The inaugural CEIST Student Leadership conference will be held in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra on Tuesday March 24th.

Click here to [download flyer](#). We have received a very positive response to our student leadership conference with over 80 schools registering to attend. We would like to remind the remaining schools who wish to send students to event to complete our [online form](#) as soon as is possible.

## Education Matters



### FÉILTE 2015

The Teaching Council is inviting registered teachers to apply to showcase their work at FÉILTE 2015, Saturday 3 October 2015 in the RDS, Dublin. FÉILTE, the Festival of Education in Learning and Teaching Excellence, is a celebration of teaching where teachers showcase their work in leading innovative learning in schools.

Now in its third year, the day provides a platform for teachers to share their stories of innovation with each other and the public. In this way, they are supporting each other and parents in enhancing their own professional practice for the benefit of their pupils and students.

[MORE](#)

## Faith-related Issues



### LENT 2015

The following are RE resources some of which were kindly shared by Anna Moloney, Post-Primary Diocesan Adviser, Dublin.

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### Lenten Hunger Fast and Prayer

Mercy International Association—Global Action invite you to join in a DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING ON MARCH 31st.

[MORE](#)

## News from CEIST Schools



### Alan Mullan visits Killina Presentation Secondary School

The student Council in Killina Presentation Secondary School, Rahan, Co. Offaly were delighted to welcome Alan Mullan the youngest leader from Operation Transformation to Killina on Thursday last 26th Feb.

Alan was invited to join the school community by the student council to share his experiences over the last few weeks.

[MORE](#)



### First in Ireland for Mount Mercy College Cork

Mount Mercy College, Model Farm Road, Cork Transition Year student Jennifer Greally last week was a guest of honour at the Banking and Payments Federation Ireland in Dublin.

Jennifer achieved first place in Ireland in her Junior Certificate Business Studies examination with the State Examinations Commission last September.

She was presented with her Gold Medal and Certificate at an elite ceremony in the headquarters of Banking & Payments Federation Ireland by the Managing Director of Microsoft Ireland, Ms. Cathriona Hallahan.

[MORE](#)



### St. Anne's student is recognised in Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards

Sarah O'Neill has been recognised for her service to her local community by being nominated as a finalist in the Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards 2015. She is one of only 20 finalists who have made it through to this round.

Sarah who is a third year student at St. Anne's Secondary, Co. Tipperary, has been involved in volunteering throughout primary and secondary school.

[MORE](#)



### Start of a New Era for St Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla

St Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla, Co. Clare officially turned the sod on their new school building on January 31st, 2015.

The Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan turned the first sod on start of new school building.

Bishop Kieran O'Reilly, attended the event along with school chaplain, Fr. Brendan, local councillors, and CEIST representatives, Dr. Marie Griffin, CEO and Dr. Amalee Meehan, Faith Leadership and Governance Co-ordinator for the school.



### News from Coláiste Muire, Ennis

Coláiste Muire, Ennis, Co. Clare shared some very interesting news snippets with CEIST.

The school recently held their "Introduction to 2nd Level Programme", Retreats were organised for 3rd and 5th year students and all TY students became certified Cardiac First Responder!

[MORE](#)



### Latest News from Presentation Secondary School, Thurles

Presentation Secondary School, Thurles had lots of interesting news to share such as a recent visit from the Rose of Tralee and 3rd year students attending the cycle against suicide student leaders' congress to name but a few!

[MORE](#)



### Pres College Currylea students visit RTE and meet Nicky Byrne!

Three students from Presentation College, Currylea, Tuam, Co. Galway, Jackie Conway, Eimi Smyth and Caeligh Ann Ryan travelled to RTE to visit the digital dept and get a tour of the building including the late late show studio and the news room.

They were joined on the trip by students from two other CEIST schools - Scoil Bhríde, Tuam and Holy Rosary College Mountbellew and also students from St Jarlath's Tuam.

[MORE](#)



### Presentation College Athenry Latest News

Presentation College Athenry was very busy in the run up to the mid-term holidays and the following news snippets were kindly shared by Business Studies teacher, Jason Cotter.

[MORE](#)

## Reflecting CEIST Values



### Register for the 2015 Pilgrimage of Young Mercy Leaders

Registration is now open for the 2015 Pilgrimage of Young Mercy Leaders (14 -17 July).

This pilgrimage for secondary school students brings together students from across the Mercy world. These Mercy pilgrims will undertake their journey in the light of the story of Catherine McAuley. Students who participate in this pilgrimage will emerge with a deeper appreciation of our Mercy tradition – past, present and future.

[MORE](#)



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## CEIST Meet The Student Council of Scoil Dara, Kilcock

Thursday 26th February 2015

The Education Act 1998 made it a statutory requirement for schools to have a Student Council. We are delighted with the role these Councils play in CEIST schools.

On Monday a member of the Ceist team attended a meeting of the Student Council in Kilcock. The school's Principal Mr. PJ Gannon is retiring after twenty two years at the helm of the Kildare school. Before the recruitment process begins it is customary for the various stakeholders to have an input into the recruitment process.

The members of the Student Council had some very valuable insights and opinions on the leadership they would like to see in their school. One could not but be impressed with the maturity and honesty of the students in question.

The discussion around the change of Principal was not the only item on the agenda at this meeting. After these discussions the students moved on to preparations for Seachtain na Gaeilge, arrangements for a sleep in to raise money for Focus Ireland and their desirability for a Prefects room in the school.

CEIST would like to thank the students and their teachers Ms. Doyle and Ms. Finlay for their hospitality and wishes them well in their future endeavours.



The Student Council with their liason teachers Caren Finlay (Front Right) and Claire Doyle (Back Left).



Pictured above are The Student Council of Scoil Dara, Kilcock with Head Boy Cathal Coffey and Head Girl Lauren Butler.

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## CEIST Bake Off Update

Thursday 26th February 2015

The deadline for applications is fast approaching for the CEIST Bake Off. On Wednesday of this week Catherine Leyden, Odlums visited Ard Scoil Na Troinoide Athy for a meeting to plan for the grand finale.

Home Economics Teacher Jackie Cooper and the Deputy Principal Margaret Cambie McEvoy represented the school. Justin Brown from CEIST also attended the meeting.

To date 70 entries have been submitted and all the stakeholders - CEIST, Odlums and the school itself are delighted with the huge response.

Following today's discussions it was decided to hold the final on Friday, March 27th, The day will begin at 9am and end at 3pm. While the Bake Off will last for two hours lunch will also be provided with the winner being announced in the afternoon during a short awards ceremony.

The date for applications closes today (Friday 27th February). After that Catherine Leyden will examine each of the submissions and choose seven to go forward to the final on March 27th, Successful schools will be notified during the week beginning March 9th.

The theme of the Bake Off is "Talents" and from the response to date would indicate that there are no shortage of culinary skills among the students in CEIST schools.

We are looking forward to seeing those skills in action and the end products in Ard Scoil na Troinoide in three weeks time.



Catherine Leyden (Odlums and TV3) inspects the school's facilities in preparation for the CEIST Bake Off on March 27th in Ard Scoil na Troinoide, Athy.



Pictured above Johnny McCormack, Principal, Catherine Leyden (Odlums), Justin Brown (CEIST), Luke Walsh (Work Experience Student), Margaret Cambie McEvoy (Deputy Principal) pictured after the planning meeting for the CEIST Bake Off in Ard Scoil na Troinoide, Athy.



Pictured above are Catherine Leyden (Odlums), Luke Walsh (student on work experience) and Jackie Cooper (Home Economics Teacher) with the school's winning entry in the National Dairy Council's Milk it Awards.



GAEILGE »

*An Chomhairle Mhúinteoireachta*  
**The Teaching Council**

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**FÉILTE, 3 October 2015, RDS, Dublin**

**Open call for showcases**

The Teaching Council is inviting registered teachers to apply to showcase their work at FÉILTE 2015, Saturday 3 October 2015 in the RDS, Dublin.

FÉILTE, the Festival of Education in Learning and Teaching Excellence, is a celebration of teaching where teachers showcase their work in leading innovative learning in schools. Now in its third year, the day provides a platform for teachers to share their stories of innovation with each other and the public. In this way, they are supporting each other and parents in enhancing their own professional practice for the benefit of their pupils and students.

**The Teaching Council is now inviting registered teachers to apply to showcase their work at FÉILTE 2015, 3 October, RDS.**

**The deadline for applications is Thursday, 5 March.**  
We look forward to hearing from you.

**Watch the FÉILTE 2014 highlights here »**



[Click here to read the application criteria »](#)

[You can make your application by completing this form »](#)



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## LENT 2015

Monday 16th February 2015

The following are RE resources kindly shared by Anna Moloney, Post-Primary Diocesan Adviser.

### Lent 2015 Resources

Materials for [Ash Wednesday/Lent Resource Page](#), entitled Lent 2015.

Please take a look at the sacred space ([The Lenten Path/Garden](#)) created by Lizzie Harrison who has generously shared all items, including:

[A List of Daily Pledges for each day of Lent](#)

[Teachers' Notes for Creating a Lenten Path/Garden](#)

to complement a [Prayer Leaflet for a Lenten Reconciliation Service](#).

### Further ideas for Lent 2015

Trocaire's [Lenten Resource Page](#) and their [Post-Primary Resources](#) may also prove helpful, along with CAFOD's [Lent Resources](#) and their [2015 Lenten Calendar](#).

### New Resource Page: The Search for Meaning

A new page has been added to the website; [The Search for Meaning](#) inspired by recent media coverage of this topic. I hope you will find these recommendations useful in guiding discussions with Senior R.E. students (both exam and non-exam).

### A Simple Prayer

On Being by Thomas Merton is described in the following link, by James Martin S.J. as "...the prayer anyone can pray..."

Click [here](#) to listen to his reading of the prayer via SoundCloud.

[James Martin S.J.](#) provides a wealth of inspiration, should you wish to follow him on Twitter. Here are just two items to get you started:

[Too beautiful not to retweet](#)

[What will you do today to meet God?](#)

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## Lenten Hunger Fast and Prayer

Monday 16th February 2015



### INVITATION to join Mercy International Association–Global Action, in a DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING ON MARCH 31st ....

The Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) is an international coalition of many nations, continents and people from a variety of professions in every walk of life, who are committed to taking action and responsibility to care for God's beautiful, life-giving creation.

GCCM put out the attached Declaration, which Mercy International Association (MIA) has signed, calling all of us to prayer and action now! As part of this commitment GCCM has initiated a worldwide Lenten Fast, which begins on Ash Wednesday – see second attachment. Each country has been invited to take a day of Lent organised by a 'Fast Leader' that we as in MIA- Global Action, have taken responsibility for. March 31st is the day for Ireland to pray and fast.

On Tuesday 31st, we are committing to pray and fast in solidarity with those who are most affected by the violent climate shifts and changes, especially the poor and those living in coastal communities. GCCM will be sending out resource material for us to use on March 31st, which we will share with everyone who agrees to participate with us – whatever form of prayer or fasting you are able to manage - on that day.

Please consider joining us, as together we focus on our responsibility for Mother Earth and all who share her gifts, especially the most vulnerable. As GCCM state in their statement: "We are certain that anthropogenic [human-made] climate change endangers God's creation and us all, particularly the poor, whose voices have already spoken of the impacts of an altered climate."

## Resources

Resources to prepare your fast:

- [Our 1-page Guide for the Lenten Fast for Climate Justice](#)
- Pope Francis' [Lenten message for 2015](#)
- [The Stations of the Cross with John Paul II: On the path of Ecological Conversion](#)
- [Carbon fast calendar](#)
- [FAQs](#) about our Lenten Fast
- Prayers about creation stewardship: [here](#) and [here](#).
- ["Our Statement to the Church and the World"](#)
- ["Paenitemini" Apostolic Constitution](#) of Pope Paul VI on fasting and abstinence.
- [Catholic Teachings](#) on Climate Change and Creation Stewardship.

**Important reminder:** if you're going to take part in the Fast (by "fasting" we mean refraining from food during a whole day, or at least one meal) please make sure you drink lots of fluids, and if you feel dizzy, weak or light-headed – eat something straight away. You shouldn't take part in the Fast if you're pregnant, under-12, diabetic or suffer from an eating disorder. If you have any doubts, check with your doctor first.

## Further Information

[2015 Hunger Fast Proposal](#)

[Global Catholic Climate Movement Jan 2015](#)



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## Alan Mullan visits Killina Presentation Secondary School

Friday 27th February 2015

The student Council in Killina Presentation Secondary School, Rahon, Co. Offaly were delighted to welcome Alan Mullan the youngest leader from Operation Transformation to Killina on Thursday last 26th Feb.

Alan was invited to join the school community by the student council to share his experiences over the last few weeks.

His advice and straight talk was well received by all the students and they look forward to meeting him again.

Alan will join students and teachers Wednesday 4th March on the schools own Operation Transformation weekly "Walk, Jog Run" initiative.

This initiative is being led by the schools PE department in order to promote and highlight the importance of healthy mind, body and spirit.

### Photos from Alan's Visit to Killina





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## First in Ireland for Mount Mercy College Cork

Tuesday 3rd February 2015

[Mount Mercy College](#), Model Farm Road, Cork Transition Year student Jennifer Greally last week was a guest of honour at the Banking and Payments Federation Ireland in Dublin.

Jennifer achieved first place in Ireland in her Junior Certificate Business Studies examination with the State Examinations Commission last September.

She was presented with her Gold Medal and Certificate at an elite ceremony in the headquarters of Banking & Payments Federation Ireland by the Managing Director of Microsoft Ireland, Ms. Cathriona Hallahan.

Jennifer's Business teacher Ms. Mary Roche also received a certificate in recognition of her success.

The ceremony was also attended by Jennifer's parents and Mount Mercy College School Principal Padraigín Uí Riordáin.

Bean Uí Riordáin paid tribute to her excellent student teacher team and was proud to accept a certificate from the Business Studies Teachers Association of Ireland (B.S.T.A.I.) celebrating Mount Mercy College's success.

Jennifer is a talented and hardworking student and her result has brought great honour to Mount Mercy College. She described Ms. Roche as a teacher of enormous commitment to Mount Mercy College who worked consistently on behalf of her students.

Jennifer received her primary education at Ballinora National School. Having listened to the Managing Director of Microsoft Ms. Hallahan describe the wonderful career opportunities in the Business and I.T. sector, Jennifer is definitely considering taking Accounting as a subject for her Leaving Certificate in 2017.



Jennifer Greally, Transition Year Student at Mount Mercy College pictured with her Business Studies Teacher Ms. Mary Roche and Managing Director of Microsoft Ireland, Ms. Cathriona Hallahan

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## St. Anne's student is recognised in Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards

Monday 9th February 2015

Sarah O'Neill from Bansha, Co. Tipperary has been recognised for the motivation, service and impact she has demonstrated for her local community as a 2015 Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards top 20 finalist.

Sarah who is a third year student at St. Anne's Secondary, Co. Tipperary, has been involved in volunteering throughout primary and secondary school. She was a founding member of her primary school's Green Schools Committee, and has continued to be a part of this initiative in secondary school, currently in the role of Junior Secretary.

Sarah was also a member of her local Tidy Towns Committee when in primary school.

However, Sarah's most notable voluntary achievement was when, in 2011 at the age of 11, she became the youngest girl to reach the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. With her group, Sarah raised €16,000 for the mental health charity 'Aware', one which is close to her heart.

Sarah has not been without hardship, however. Mountaineer, Ian Cheever, who was part of the team to climb Kilimanjaro, and Sarah's inspiration to participate in the expedition, tragically passed away after the venture was completed. Sarah used Ian's death as an incentive to further her fundraising, and in June 2014, together with other members of the Kilimanjaro team, raised €900 to build an orphanage in Tanzania in his memory.

Helen Ryan, one of Sarah's teachers says, "Sarah's meeting with mountaineer Ian McKeever and her subsequent climbing of Kilimanjaro has been such a true inspiration for her that I truly believe that her commitment to volunteering will be strong throughout her life." This is supported by Sarah herself who contends, "After seeing the poverty first hand I now realise how essential it is for voluntary groups to keep raising funds for projects."

The only all-Ireland youth initiative of its kind is run in partnership with The National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) and The General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland (GTCNI) and recognises outstanding acts of volunteerism by Ireland's youth.

Twenty post-primary students, who hail from all corners of Ireland, will be presented with €500 and an engraved silver medallion at the gala awards ceremony on 12th March in the Slieve Donard Resort & Spa by special guest Brent Pope. At the gala, two of the 20 students will be named All-Ireland Youth Volunteers of the Year and will receive €1,000 for a charity of their choice, a gold medallion, a crystal trophy for their school and an all-expense paid trip to the United States in May to participate in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards ceremony.

"The calibre of entrants was exceptional this year and we're delighted to recognise and showcase such exemplary young people," said Andrea McBride, vice president, Pramerica. "Since we launched the programme in 2006, the awards have given us the opportunity to acknowledge the voluntary activities of hundreds of extraordinary youth ambassadors who are actively making a difference in their communities. They are the future leaders in our society and they are a benchmark for other young people to strive towards. We are thrilled to honour their commitment to volunteerism through this awards programme."



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## News from Coláiste Muire, Ennis

Monday 2nd February 2015

### Introduction to 2nd Level Programme

This is the seventh year that Coláiste Muire has offered this programme over five days in December and January. 150 sixth class students from primary schools in our catchment area were given an insight into a typical day in second level.



Following an iPad demonstration and a short tour of the school they had a French, German and Science class. They also joined some first and second year core classes. The day concluded with a short information session with the Principal and Guidance Counsellor.

### Retreats

Conor and Peter Cronin of the Mustard Seed facilitated retreats for our 3rd and 5th year students from the 6th – 9th January.

The annual retreats are an opportunity for students to take time out from study and academic work to reflect on their hopes, dreams and aspirations.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the meditation and the many team building exercises.

### Cardiac First Responders Course



All of our Transition Year students are now certified Cardiac First Responders following training over four days in January.

The purpose of this course is to enable students to assess a collapsed casualty and perform CPR on an adult, child and infant.

Students learn how to recognise the signs of choking, the signs of a heart attack, the signs of a stroke and they are taught how to provide treatment. All Transition Year students can now operate a defibrillator safely.

### Kemmy Business School UL / BSTAI Awards

12 of our students who achieved A grades at higher level in their Junior Cert 2014 are to be presented certificates acknowledging their outstanding achievements at a ceremony in UL on 11th March.

Their parents and our Business Studies teachers will also attend.

### “Be Body Positive” Programme

Fiona Flynn, Youth Development Officer with Bodywhys delivered this presentation to our 2nd year group on 19th January.

This talk was organised in co operation with our Parents Association.

Topics included:

- What is Body Image?
- What / Who influences Body Image?
- Ways to feel better about yourself?
- What are eating disorders?
- Recovery from an eating disorder.
- What can Bodywhys do for you?

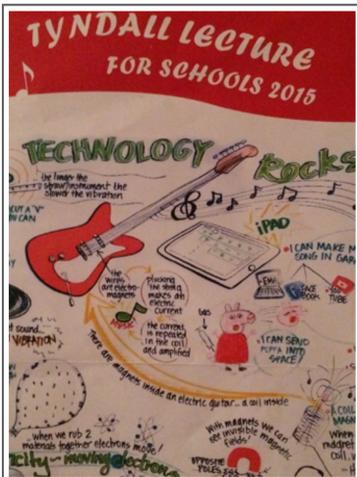
### St. Bridget’s Cross Workshop



All interested students were invited to attend this workshop held at lunch-time on 30th January in the Art Room. They learned the traditional Irish Craft of weaving a St. Bridget’s Cross.

In keeping with tradition students can now hang their cross in their house, in the kitchen or over the front door “to keep their home safe from fire and free from evil spirits for the new year!”

### Tyndall Lecture



The Tyndall Lectures are held at various venues throughout Ireland at the end of January each year. Following in the tradition of the Irish physicist John Tyndall who delivered hundreds of lectures at the Royal Institution in London, the IOP Ireland -sponsored lectures use demonstrations and interactivity to enthuse students about the physics they are learning in class.

Our Transition Year physics class attended Sue McGrath’s lecture entitled “Technology Rocks” in University of Limerick on 30 January. Sue McGrath aka “Scientific Sue” is the founding director of Science2Life.

Our students learned how the scientific inputs of Volta, Oersted and Faraday lay the foundations for the development of one of the most important inventions of the 20th century; the electric guitar – the key musical instrument which totally defines the tone and character of rock and roll music.

The topics of sound, electricity, magnetism and then electromagnetism were explored in a fun and interactive fashion with the aim of explaining how the magnetic pickups on an electric guitar sense vibrations and turn it into sound.

### Bar Council TY Programme

Cara Finnerty of TY2 was selected to participate in this programme from Feb 2nd – 6th. A total of 100 students from schools all over Ireland were selected to participate in the Bar Council Programme.

As part of the programme, a barrister “hosts” a group of 5 students for each morning of the 5 day programme. The barrister involves students in a variety of cases and exposes them to the daily life of a junior barrister. Students have the opportunity to ask questions of the host barrister during the morning sessions. After lunch each day students are divided into larger groups and brought to the Criminal Court Complex.

### Cadette C Volleyball All Ireland Champions



Our Cadette C Volleyball team was crowned All Ireland Champions after defeating Sulton Park School, Dublin by two sets (25-12, 26-24) in O’Loughlin Gaels GAA club, Kilkenny.

In a thrilling encounter Coláiste Muire came back from 21-24 in the second set to clinch victory.

The MVP (Most Valuable Player) award went to Mary O’Conner. Congratulations to Shauna Kearney who was selected for the Irish Squad.

Coláiste Muire qualified for the All Ireland Final following victories over Mercy Coolock in the quarter finals and St. Brigid’s Loughrea in the semi finals which were held in Athlone on Monday 26th January.

Huge strides have been made in developing the game in Coláiste Muire. This year the school contested at both A and C level reaching the All Ireland Semi-final in the Girls A competition having won C at Cadette and Senior in 2012/3 and the Junior Shield in 2014.

Congratulations to all involved.



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## Latest News from Presentation Secondary School, Thurles

Thursday 12th February 2015

### Visit from the Rose of Tralee

On Friday last, 16th January, our school was privileged to welcome the current Rose of Tralee, Maria Walsh, The Rose of Philadelphia. This beautiful young lady enthused and motivated our pupils with her warm and friendly manner and her positive get-up-and-go attitude to life. Rather than delivering a prepared speech she opened the floor to a question -and -answer session, in order that the pupils would be fully involved and interested in the topics. She answered the questions competently, confidently and with a great sense of humour. Various topics were discussed, including mental health issues and her trip to Calcutta in India, of particular interest to our students, who have also travelled there with The Hope Foundation and the twelve girls departing for India in April. Her colourful account of The Rose of Tralee Festival and the camaraderie of The Rose Family opened our eyes to the true meaning of being a Rose, representing your county or country and having a real sense of pride in being Irish.



Pictured above Rose of Tralee Maria Walsh and Tipperary Rose Lauren Walsh recently visited the Presentation Secondary School in Thurles Maira spoke to the girls about her amazing experiences to date.

Maria is such a charming, charismatic young lady, a successful career woman and a pioneer and she depicted the perfect role-model for our teenagers. Her planned thirty minute visit extended to two hours such was the unexpected, enthusiastic response of the students and Maria's generosity in giving of her time for photographs and selfies.

We shall follow her progress with interest and encourage our girls to follow in her footsteps. Indeed we are also very proud of the beautiful Tipperary Rose, Lauren Walsh and Clodagh Maher, Representative of The Tipperary Rose Centre, who accompanied the Philadelphia Rose on Friday. Last September we were very pleased to see two of our past pupils partake in The Rose Festival, Eleanor Sutton (Offaly) and Niamh Bergin (Belgium). Now we look forward to many more of our students blossoming into roses in the future.

### Cycle Against Suicide Student Leader's Congress

On Wednesday January 14th 2015, our Third Year students travelled to the RDS in Dublin to attend the Cycle Against Suicide Student Leader's Congress. The day consisted of a showcase of school mental health project work, panel discussions on mental health, guest speakers and entertainment. The message from the Congress was very strong – It's okay not to feel okay and it's absolutely okay to ask for help'. All the guest speakers on the day spoke passionately about their experiences of mental health issues.



Pictured above Irish entrepreneur and founder of Cycle Against Suicide Jim Breen, visited Presentation Secondary Thurles recently for the final day of the Positive Mental Health Week. He delivered an excellent speech and left a lasting effect on the students and teachers.

Some of the speakers included Bressie, Conor Cusack, Sonia O' Sullivan, Mark Pollock, Seamus Hennessy, Alan Quinlan to name but a few. Two of our own pupils Caitlin Donnelly and Rebecca Dooley spoke eloquently on the day about the school's Mental Health Committee's own mental health project which consists of including mental health in the physical education curriculum. Overall a fantastic day was had by all, everyone left with a stronger awareness of mental health and indeed some of the guest speakers words lingered with our pupils days after the event. Presentation Secondary School is an anchor school for the Cycle Against Suicide event this coming May and we can't wait to show our support to all involved.

### CAMOGIE SENIOR 'A' Champions!

#### Presentation Thurles 3-8 Laurel Hill 0-3

Presentation Thurles are Munster/Connacht Senior A champions after a truly magnificent display on Friday last. In front of a huge home support the Thurles girls set about avenging a 28 point defeat to Laurel Hill in 2014. The opening exchanges were frantic but the Pres girls dominated with a flurry of points from Courtney Ryan, Aoife Collier, Nicola Loughnane and a beauty from Sarah McKeivitt, setting the tone for a first half that would seal the victory.

With ten minutes to the interval the crucial first goal came when captain Laura Loughnane rattled the Limerick net. Before the Limerick girls got a chance to regain their composure, Laura Loughnane got her second goal after a superb delivery from Casey Hennessy. On the stroke of half time Hazel McAuliffe fired in the third goal for the Presentation team. The second half saw Laurel Hill come out all guns blazing and fired over two quick points but the Pres back line was not for passing.

It was a day when the Pres had twenty heroes but special mention to the heroic Courtney Ryan, the tireless Karen Kennedy and the man of the match Nicola Loughnane who drove the team forward throughout the game. There will be some big days ahead for this team and 6th years Laura Loughnane, Niamh Sweeney and Laura Finlay have bowed out as champions. We would like to thank Fr. Tom Fogarty and St Patrick's College for allowing us the use of their wonderful facilities throughout the year.



Pictured above the winning Pres Thurles camogie team and mentors.

### Munster Soccer Champions



Presentation Secondary School Thurles were crowned Munster Senior Soccer Champions 2014-15 on Monday 26th January. The Munster Final was held in St. Kevin's Park Newhill, with the opposition travelling from Crescent College Limerick. The Presentation girls showed grit and determination early on in the game by scoring twice in the opening ten minutes. The opening goal was a sight to be seen. A precise pass from captain Jane Ann McKeivitt on the half way line sent her sister Sarah, tearing down the right wing, rounding her marker and crossing in a sensational ball into the box. Running on to this cross was Shonagh Cleary who volleyed the ball into the top right hand corner. Shonagh made it difficult for the Limerick side and managed to score a second goal soon after that.

The Presentation team pushed on in the second half. Sarah McKeivitt had a few opportunities on goal and when the Limerick defence opened up, Sarah stuck home to make the score 3-0. The Presentation defence showed great teamwork while the centre field partnership of Anna Gavin, Hazel McAuliffe and Jane Anne McKeivitt proved too much for their opposition. Hazel McAuliffe showed great personal skill rounding a number of players to score the final goal into the bottom left.

A mention must be given to Christine Coffey, the net minder, who late in the second half saved a penalty to keep a well-deserved clean sheet. Final score 4-0. Presentation Thurles will now meet Loreto Kilkenny in the All -Ireland Senior Semi-Final. A big thank you to St. Kevin's, Newhill for the use of their superb facilities. Team: Christine Coffey, Cara O'Connor, Robyn Moore, Emer Harnett, Norah Kennedy, Sarah McKeivitt (capt), Anna Gavin (Lauren McCormack), Hazel McAuliffe (Georgina Abbott), Jane Anne McKeivitt (Holly O'Dwyer), Mary Burke and Shonagh Cleary.



Congratulations to the students from Presentation Secondary School Thurles who have reached the final of the All Ireland Transition Year Drama Competition with their drama 'Don't Shoot the Messenger'.



Transition Year students of Presentation Secondary School Thurles are pictured at the official opening of the school bank in conjunction with AIB. Also included in the photo is their teacher Barry Ryan, Principal Marie Collins, and they were lucky to have a visit from Brendan Cummins former Tipp goalkeeper and AIB Bank Official.



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## Pres College Currylea students visit RTE and meet Nicky Byrne!

Thursday 5th February 2015

Three students from Presentation College, Currylea, Tuam, Co. Galway, Jackie Conway, Eimi Smyth and Caeligh Ann Ryan travelled to RTE yesterday to visit the digital dept and get a tour of the building including the late late show studio and the news room.

They were joined on the trip by students from two other CEIST schools - Scoil Bhríde, Tuam and Holy Rosary College Mountbellew and also students from St Jarlath's Tuam.

A great day was had by all and they even got to meet Nicky Byrne!!!



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## Presentation College Athenry Latest News

Monday 16th February 2015

Presentation College Athenry were very busy in the run up to the mid term holidays and below are two events that were kindly shared by Business Studies teacher, Jason Cotter.

### Bank Of Ireland 'Bond Trader Challenge'



Presentation College, Athenry Transition Year students with their Business Teacher, Mr. Jason Cotter and Bank Of Ireland Branch Manager Donal Kennedy at the Bank Of Ireland 'Bond Trader Challenge' which took place at the Salthill Hotel recently.

### Students pave the way in Development Education



A group of 13 Presentation College Transition Year students along with their teacher, Mr. Jason Cotter, visited Dublin Castle this week to take part in round table discussions about Development Education issues.



Following the Presentation College Athenry Student Council Candy Cane Fundraiser and Ms. Fiona Page's SK Charity School Run, Ms. Anne Monaghan, Deputy Principal; Evan Quirke, PCA Student Council; Mr. Kenneth O Dea, PCA Student Council Coordinator; Mary Kelly, PCA Student Council and Mr. Cathal Moore, Deputy Principal present a cheque for €1000 to Aware's Colm Fagan.

### Ministerial Visit to Presentation College Athenry

Minister of State at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise Gerald Nash, T.D. was in Athenry recently to discuss enterprise issues with local business owners.

Pictured below with Minister Nash were Senator Lorraine Higgins who organised the special event which was also attended by Presentation College Athenry Deputy Principal's Ms. Anne Monaghan and Mr. Cathal Moore along with Mr. Jason Cotter's Business Studies class.





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## Register for the 2015 Pilgrimage of Young Mercy Leaders

Wednesday 11th February 2015

Registration is now open for the 2015 Pilgrimage of Young Mercy Leaders (14 -17 July).

This pilgrimage for secondary school students brings together students from across the Mercy world. These Mercy pilgrims will undertake their journey in the light of the story of Catherine McAuley. Students who participate in this pilgrimage will emerge with a deeper appreciation of our Mercy tradition – past, present and future.

Young Mercy Leaders pilgrimages have been taking place since 2011. Videos and stories from previous pilgrimages can be [viewed here](#).

[An overview of the program can be found here](#) (PDF). Click on link below to download all registration materials.

## Registration Materials

[Young Mercy Leaders Registration](#)

