

## Greetings from the CEO's desk

Greetings to each of you as we embark on the new academic year. I hope you enjoyed a restful and restorative summer and that you are refreshed and renewed for the year ahead.



The past year has seen our CEIST schools acquit themselves yet again in the lived expression of the CEIST Charter. You bring a richness to the educational enterprise through your commitment and enthusiasm.

We have many newly appointed staff to our schools, Principals, Deputy Principals, teaching and ancillary staff, as well as the thousands of new students who bring fresh eyes and energy to all our work.

We bid farewell to former students who are now brave fledglings setting out into the world of work, third level studies, gap-years and so much more...and we bid farewell and thanks to all those who have retired from teaching life. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to those who have gone before us. They have built the foundations for our work and have paved the way for us to build and grow.

We say a fond "goodbye" to Antonya Hanly, Faith Development Co-ordinator, who has been appointed Principal of St. John's Primary school, Limerick. We are grateful to Antonya for her unwavering commitment to CEIST and our schools, she brought an energy and enthusiasm for the ministry that is our work.

This Newsletter is filled with snapshots of the life and energy in the CEIST schools as well as some insights into the CEIST offices and I hope you join us in celebrating all the endeavours.

I wish you every blessing in the work of the year ahead and be assured of our continued support and vigilance.

**Anne Kelleher, CEO.**

## CEIST Induction Days for Newly Appointed Principals and Deputy Principals

CEIST invited newly appointed Principals and Deputy Principals of CEIST schools to the education office in Maynooth on the 17th and 18th of August 2010. The main objectives of the induction days were to give the new senior management appointees a stronger understanding of the workings of the Trust and also provide an opportunity to meet staff members within the education office.



*Pictured above at the Principals' induction day in the CEIST Education Office, back row, LtoR, Michael Lane (CEIST), Ned Prendergast (CEIST), Michael O'Loughlin (Presentation Clonmel), Gearóid Leen (Scoil Bhríde Tuam), Paul McDonnell (North Presentation, Farranree, Cork), Mary Nihill (Calasanz College, Oranmore), Mary Ryan (Presentation Waterford), Geraldine Mulvihill (Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda), Mike Higgins and John Woods (CEIST). Front Row: Deirdre Matthews (St. Vincent's, Dundalk), Anne Kelleher (CEO CEIST), Gerardine Kennedy (Sancta Maria College, Ballyroan), Gwen Brennan (Presentation Warrenmount) and Liam Bergin (CEO Educena).*

The Directors of each of the departments within CEIST used both induction days to give a detailed presentation on the workings of each department and the services they provide to CEIST schools. There were twenty four new senior management appointments in CEIST schools for 2010-11. A most enjoyable day was had by all who attended and CEIST staff were very grateful that our new Principals and Deputy Principals allocated us some of their valuable time to attend the induction days. We offer our best wishes to all of the Principals and Deputy Principals in their new role within the school.



*Pictured above are newly appointed Deputy Principals at the induction day in the CEIST Education Office with Anne Kelleher, CEO of CEIST back row LtoR, Ruth Gallen (Presentation Waterford), Danny O'Callaghan (St. Mary's Newport), Anne Dwyer (Presentation Clonmel), Anna Gibbons, (Caritas College, Ballyfermot, Dublin) and Patricia Garry (Presentation Warrenmount). Front Row: Tony Collison (Rockford Manor, Blackrock, Co. Dublin), Anne Kelleher (CEO CEIST), Gillian O'Callaghan (Scoil Carmel, Limerick) and Deirdre McEntegart (St. Vincent's Dundalk).*

### Our contact numbers:

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Fax: 01 - 6510180

Web: [www.ceist.ie](http://www.ceist.ie)

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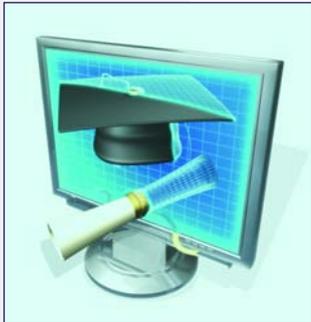


**Leaving and Junior Cert Students:** The CEIST office would like to congratulate everybody concerned on the exceptional results received and acknowledge the work of the students themselves, the teachers and parents, and the Principals of all our schools.

**Retiring Board Members:** Our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all retiring Board members. You deserve great credit for your commitment to your school. Thank you for your guidance, advice and support. We are indebted to all of you for doing an excellent job in ensuring that our CEIST schools continue to thrive.

# CEIST Schools Leading the Way in Innovation

CEIST schools are leading the way in Innovation by facilitating distance learning for their students through the use of technology. St. Joseph's Secondary School, Ballybunion, Co. Kerry is currently working on a most interesting project where it is sharing subjects through distance learning with two other schools. One of the schools is CEIST school, Mercy Mounthawk Tralee along with St. Michael's College, Listowel.



A virtual classroom is created in each school and the three schools can now offer the students a greater range of subjects. St. Joseph's can now offer Ag. Science to Mercy Mounthawk, Tralee and St. Michael's College, Listowel. St. Joseph's are also providing History and Physics, to St. Michael's College Listowel. Mercy Mounthawk Tralee will provide St. Joseph's with Chemistry. Everyone involved are very impressed and see this initiative as the way forward.

The Principal of St. Joseph's Ballybunion, John O'Donovan, talks as follows about the current difficulties schools are facing with providing subject options for students:

"For the past number of years many schools are faced with the problem of providing subject options for all students. In smaller schools like St. Joseph's Ballybunion we may have 2 to 5 students opting for a subject like Chemistry. We could not afford to provide a teacher for this number of students. In larger schools like Mercy Mounthawk they may have 30 students applying for Chemistry and with the restriction on class size of 24 this meant there were 6 students not getting their choice. I saw where St Fintina's Sec. School, Longwood, Enfield and Dunshaughlin Community School were sharing a subject through distance learning.

I discussed setting up a link between St. Michael's College Listowel and St. Joseph's Ballybunion and Mr. Mulvihill agreed. John O'Roarke Mercy Mounthawk also came on board. Mr. O'Roarke worked over the summer on this project and we are currently linked to each other through the server in our school. This I feel is the beginning of bigger and better subject sharing in the future. It is exciting to see two CEIST schools linking up with each other and helping one another out."

Another CEIST school, Killina Presentation Secondary School in Offaly was selected recently for an exciting pilot science teaching project. The D2D project involves the sharing of science classes between students in Killina Presentation Secondary School and Researchers in the Georgia Institute of Technology. This provides the students with access to world-class



**Pictured above An Taoiseach Brian Cowen TD meets students from Rahon Presentation School at the launch of the D2D project.**

researchers in areas such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, astronomy and using the video conferencing facilities where the students can ask questions and in some cases remotely control some of the equipment using computers and also see what the researchers are seeing, for example – the view using Georgia Tech's electron scanning microscope, which is one of the most powerful in the USA. The project is facilitated by Atlantic Corridor, a Midlands based development agency, Georgia Tech Research Institute, Atlanta Georgia and NIS, an IT services company based in the Midlands.

Killina Presentation Secondary School was one of 75 schools selected to take part in the 100mpbs Post Primary Schools Project, launched by the Government, which sets out to deliver high-speed broadband connectivity to schools across the country. As a result of this high speed internet connection the school had the infrastructure to develop the D2D project with Georgia Tech.

Michael Nolan, Principal of Killina Presentation School said "This is a very exciting time for us here in Killina Presentation Secondary School and we are privileged to have been selected to participate in this pilot Science teaching project, Direct to Discovery. We are all aware of the importance of Science in education and we are confident that our participation in this link to Georgia Tech Research Institute will create a greater interest in Science and Science based careers among our students.

CEIST congratulates both schools on their endeavours and further information on both school projects can be found on the CEIST website ([www.ceist.ie](http://www.ceist.ie)).

## RETIRING PRINCIPALS AND DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

"I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to preserve and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles." Christopher Reeve. All the Principals and Deputy Principals in our CEIST schools who retire this year deserve the title of

hero for the many years of ensuring the delivery of quality education despite meagre resources. We thank you for your hard work, dedication to the CEIST values and inspirational leadership. Our students' lives have been enriched and their

prospects enhanced by your commitment. You did not spare yourselves in ensuring that the school buildings were improved and fortified. May you have a very happy, fulfilled and long retirement. It is well deserved.

## Finance Matters...Finance Matters...Finance Matters

### IMPORTANT DATES IN YOUR SCHOOL DIARY:

#### 1ST NOVEMBER 2010

Annual Accounts for 2009-2010 due in CEIST Office

#### 31ST OCTOBER 2010

2nd moiety of insurance premium due to Allianz plc.

#### Annual School Accounts 2009-2010

School annual accounts for the 2009-2010 academic year are due in the CEIST Office by 1st November 2010. A suggested timetable to assist in this

is available in the Members' Area (resources section) of the CEIST website. Should you experience any problems in meeting this deadline please contact the Finance Department in the CEIST Office who may be able to assist. Thank You!

#### Insurance Premium 2009-2010

The first half of the annual insurance premium was due on 1st April 2010 along with premia for engineering inspections and ride-on mowers. The second moiety is due on 31st October 2010. Please ensure that you make your payment to Allianz plc directly before this date to ensure that insurance cover remains in place for your school at all times. Thank You!

## Health and Safety in CEIST Schools

### School Caretaker Training

Health and Safety is of paramount importance in our schools. As part of our commitment to ensuring that our schools are safe places for everyone who enters them, the Trustees, in conjunction with Allianz plc, are holding a series of one day training seminars for School Caretakers in October 2010.

In order to minimise any disruption to our schools the training will take place during the October mid-term break from Tuesday, 26th to Friday 29th October 2010. Under current health and safety legislation this training for our School Caretakers is **mandatory** and training must be undertaken every two years.

The training will cover areas such as manual handling, general health and safety with emphasis on schools, fire safety, preventive maintenance and risk assessment. The training will run from 9:30am until 4:30pm with a one hour break for lunch. Certificates will be issued on completion of the course.

You should by this stage have received correspondence from the CEIST Office along with a booking form and we would kindly request that you complete and return as soon as possible so that hotel bookings and numbers can be secured.



### Health and Safety Checklist

Health and Safety is a legal requirement as well as being an important aspect of good corporate governance. Poor safety and health may lead to expensive compensation claims and involve criminal prosecutions of the school, its Management and Staff.



The Safety Statement makes clear how the safety of employees, students, parents, visitors and other persons is organized in a safe learning environment.

The Trustees require that all Boards of Management have in place a professionally prepared Safety Statement and Risk Assessment and that these are updated to reflect changes, legal, environmental and structural.

As we commence a new year it is a good time to ensure that your school is legally compliant. To this end there is a checklist available to assist you. Please print out the checklist entitled **"Policies and Arrangements for Health and Safety in Schools"** and complete the form. You should sign and date the form and retain on file and ensure that corrective action has been taken where necessary. The checklist is available in the Members' Area (resources section) of the CEIST website.

### SAVE MONEY BY RENEWING YOUR PPA ON-LINE!

Allianz is offering an increased discount of 30% on renewal of the Pupil Personal Accident Insurance from this September when the renewal is arranged on-line via the website [www.allianz.ie/schools](http://www.allianz.ie/schools). This option saves on administration costs and is a much more efficient method to renew your policy. The benefits of the scheme include:

- Comprehensive insurance cover with options available.
- No time limit on which claims can be made.
- Medical and dental expense benefits have separate limits of €30,000.
- Allianz has partnered with Vhi Swiftcare clinics for treatment of accidents.

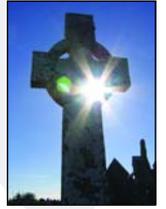


Visit [www.ceist.ie](http://www.ceist.ie) for further news items or subscribe to our e-newsletter. We very much welcome your news items or pictures for our website and monthly e-news editions.

## PILGRIM'S PRAYER



I place myself in this moment,  
In the presence of the divine,  
My fellow pilgrims,  
My deepest self  
This place.



I come here in gratitude for my life,  
To give thanks;  
To ask for God's help,  
For healing -

Of mind and soul and body.

I come for answers to my questions:

What is my life about?

What do you want of me, Lord of my life?

I bring here this body of mine,  
Star dust flesh and bone

Fading scarecrow on a stick.

Though it seems so separate,

It is connected like the threads of a spider's web

To every one I've ever known.

When you look at me

You see my mother...

My father...

Grandmothers, grandfathers,

Ancestors going back and back...

When you look at me you see the place where I was born

And every road I've ever been on,

That led to this day to Glendalough.

I bring my eyes, half open and half closed.

I bring my ears, attuned to noise of other places,

Attentive now to the unusual sounds of a valley,

Birds singing,

Wind in the trees,

Lambs bleating,

The odd car passing.

I bring my imagination,

The place I meet my life and meet my God.

I bring my heart

The darkness and light of which it's made.

It bears the hope left in me

And the disappointments I have come to know,

The winter that is passing,

Every laugh I've laughed,

Every tear I've shed,

Every joke I've told,

The unspoken prayer that is always on my lips.

I bring the child I once was and the older person I may yet become.

I bring shoulders weighed with burdens of every sort.

I come here on feet weary of road

But connected to the slope and hope of every new horizon.

Like the horizon of this new day,

This new spring,

This valley in which we now shelter,

This mountain under whose shadow we spend this day.

I bring my life,

Cradled in these hands

And place it in the circle of my fellow pilgrims.

I am ready, Holy Spirit, for this new day

And what it brings.

Ready for what I need to hear

For the words I need to say

Ready to start afresh

And fall awake again.

Ned Prendergast (CEIST)

## TIME OUT FOR STAFF AS TERM BEGINS

Faith Development personnel of CEIST ran a number of Whole Staff presentations/ reflections as schools re-opened after the summer break. This service has been developed in response to requests from many schools and is becoming increasingly popular with Principals as a way of offering all staff members time and space for themselves and for reflection as a new term starts. Time Out for Staff has met with hugely positive feedback and can be run at any time during the academic year. Presentations this year included:

### SPACE FOR THE SPIRIT (IN A BUSY WORLD)

**Presenter:** Amalee Meehan

Amalee's approach is that of an interactive reflection. Using music, art, literature, Scripture and good conversation around people's own life experience, Amalee guides the group into the world of Christian spirituality and its relevance for teachers today. Space for the Spirit is an adaptation of the first week of Joining the Dots: Life, Faith, Teachers, Teaching and Theology – a six week programme in theology and spiritual renewal for teachers. See [www.ceist.ie](http://www.ceist.ie) and select faith development.

### WHERE HAVE WE COME FROM? WHERE ARE WE NOW? AND WHERE DO WE GO TO FROM HERE?

**Presenter:** Margaret Farrell

Margaret reflects on how the ethos and Congregational tradition of each school has made it what it is today. In light of the current challenge to Catholic Education, staffs explore ways of caring for their own spiritual wellbeing while moving into the future in a world in which academic demands, and secular agendas, increasingly encroach upon the pastoral and spiritual dimension of the school.

### FAITH IN A COLD SEASON

**Presenter:** Ned Prendergast

Ned explores the relationship between the spiritual heritage of our faith and the reality of our own lives, the lives of the young people we teach, and the world in which we find ourselves. In spite of all the pessimism that surrounds us he paints a joyful and uplifting picture of the Christian calling which is laced with a rebelliousness which he believes is essential to Christian faithfulness today.

### GOD COMES DISGUISED AS OUR SCHOOL

**Presenter:** Lloyd Bracken

Lloyd endeavours to affirm the staff in all the 'good' they do both individually and as a collective. This 'good' is no small achievement. Indeed it is more profound than one could imagine. It is a participation in the essence of Christ. So too with our 'humanity' as teachers; 'We teach who we are' as Parker Palmer says, much like Christ being his own revelation. In this sense God comes disguised as our life, indeed, even as our school life. Schools, therefore, are sacred places of teaching and learning as we are dealing with the core of the individual, both teacher and student.

## HOLY WEEK RETREAT



The CEIST Faith Development Team are holding their second Holy Week Retreat starting on the night of Palm Sunday 17th April and running until lunch time Tuesday 19th April 2011.

After the great success of last year's retreat the team have decided to return to the Tearmann Spirituality Centre in Glendalough.

The Retreat will be led by Fr. Michael Rogers who will be assisted by Sr. Breda Ahearne C.P. and promises to be a very special introduction to Holy Week for all those who take part.

CEIST very much welcome participation from all of our Principals, Deputy Principals and all staff members of our schools.

If you would like to attend the Holy Week retreat, or for more information, please contact Ned Prendergast

Tel: 0860437139 or Email: [nprendergast@ceist.ie](mailto:nprendergast@ceist.ie)

## CEIST Conference

The Fifth Annual CEIST Educational Conference will be held on the 30th September and 1st October 2010 in the Killashee House Hotel, Killashee, Naas, Co. Kildare. The CEIST Annual Education Conference provides an opportunity for our School Principals, Deputy Principals and School Boards of Management Chairpersons to network.

We have three very renowned keynote speakers for this year's conference, along with some very useful workshops. Check out the home page on the website for the full agenda.

## Young Social Innovators



Is your school on the YSI list for 2010/11? In 2009-2010 46 CEIST schools entered YSI with a total of 118 projects between them. Involvement in projects which identify and highlight issues of justice are a tremendous example of the ways in which the CEIST Charter is being lived out in our schools every day. It develops in our students their "passion for justice, fairness and for what is right" (Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy). If yours is not one of the 340 YSI affiliated second level schools, please sign up now so your students are part of the largest active citizenship programme in Ireland.

### Young Social Innovators:

3 Dawson Street, Dublin 2.

**Tel:** 01 - 6458030 **Fax:** 01 - 6458031

**Email:** [admin@youngsocialinnovators.ie](mailto:admin@youngsocialinnovators.ie)

**Website:** [www.youngsocialinnovators.ie](http://www.youngsocialinnovators.ie)



## For Your DIARY

### CEIST FIFTH ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

**Date:** Thurs 30th September and Fri 1st October 2010.

**Venue:** Killashee House Hotel, Naas, Co. Kildare.

### TRAINING FOR SCHOOL

#### CARETAKERS (CEIST/ALLIANZ)

Tuesday, 26th October 2010  
(Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth)

Wednesday 27th October 2010  
(Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone)

Thursday 28th October 2010  
(Charleville Park Hotel, Charleville)

Friday 29th October 2010  
(Springhill Court Hotel, Kilkenny)

### WELCOME FORA FOR NEW TEACHERS IN CEIST SCHOOLS

**October/November 2010**

**Timeframe**

### CEIST HOLY WEEK RETREAT

**Date:** Sunday 17th April

– Tuesday 19th April 2011.

**Venue:** Tearmann Spirituality Centre in Glendalough.

## SHARING OF IDEAS AND BEST PRACTICE



The CEIST Members' Area has been setup primarily to facilitate the sharing of ideas and best practice amongst our schools.

We are presently working on adding useful resources to the private site and we encourage our School Principals and Deputy Principals to use the facility and enjoy its benefits.

The Members' Area can be accessed from the home page of the CEIST website or by using the following link:

[www.ceist.ie/login.cfm](http://www.ceist.ie/login.cfm)

If you have issues logging on just give us a call or send an email to [jwoods@ceist.ie](mailto:jwoods@ceist.ie).