



news from ceist...

31 May 2010

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 Members Area

The CEIST Members Area is now open with initial access being given to School Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairpersons of our Schools' Boards of Management.

We plan to phase in access to other groups as we further develop the private site. The main objective of the Members Area is to provide an appropriate platform for the sharing of ideas and best practice amongst our CEIST community.

The CEIST Education Office will continue to add useful resources through this communications medium and it is hoped that the Members Area will be of real benefit to our members.

The potential of this private site will only be realised by our members' appropriate use of it, so please feel free to download, upload, set up your own forum groups on topics of interest, etc.

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CEIST News



Joining the Dots completes a second successful pilot run

Joining the Dots: Faith, Life, Teachers, Teaching and Theology is a programme in theology and spiritual renewal for teachers.

The second pilot run took place during March-April 2010 in St Mary's Secondary School, Mallow, Co. Cork.

Joining the Dots ran for two hours over six Thursday evenings. 14 teachers from a host of different subject areas took part. The programme was facilitated by Amalee Meehan and Margaret Farrell, CEIST.

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Competition



Presentation Secondary School Sexton Street Limerick Win Young Environmentalist Award

On the 12th May, 2010, first year students, from the Presentation Secondary School, Limerick, were awarded by EcoUnesco, the Young Environmental Award in Environmental Sustainability. They were the only school in Limerick city and county, to be shortlisted for this national competition.

The Presentation students, who called their project 'The Green Buddies' along with 50 other shortlisted schools, attended the Mansion House in Dublin, last Wednesday.

This was the first time the school entered this competition. 150 schools took part and the award that the school won was one of four overall winners.

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News from CEIST Schools



St. Mary's High School Open New School Extension

"CEO of CEIST, Anne Kelleher, was honoured to officially open the new building extension to St. Mary's High school on Friday afternoon, May 21st, 2010.

An Awards ceremony was also held in the afternoon, to celebrate the achievements in all areas of school life. It was a most important and enjoyable occasion, with attendance by pupils, staff, representatives of the Parents' Association, the Chairperson & representatives of the school Board of Management.

Margaret Farrell, CEIST Faith Development co-ordinator, also joined in the celebrations.

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Christ King Girl's Cork Recent Events

Christ King Girl's School in Cork had some high-profile visits recently with the Lord Mayor of Cork, Chinese Ambassador, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Members of the Oireachtas being welcomed to the school.

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CEIST Fifth Annual Educational Conference 2010
The CEIST Annual Education Conference provides an opportunity for our School Principals, Deputy Principals and Boards of Management Chairpersons to network and share ideas and best practice.
We are holding our Fifth Annual Education Conference this year in the Killashee House Hotel, Naas, Co. Kildare on Thursday 30th September and Friday 1st October.
The agenda for the conference detailing workshops and guest speakers is presently being finalised and will be posted on the website in due course.
Transition Year e-Learning Programme
The transition year e-learning programme exposes students to the exciting world of marketing - the critical factor for business success. Students will learn to analyse and understand their environment, their own buying decisions and the nature of business.
The programme has a strong entrepreneurial bias and encourages students to think up their own business ideas. All materials are devised and written at academic levels specifically suited to Irish second-level Transition Year.
Click [here](#) for more information.
Send us your news!
CEIST Education Office welcomes news items for publication each month. Please send any news items, events, photo's, etc, to info@ceist.ie.
The deadline for the next issue is Wednesday 30th June, 2010.



Coláiste Muire, Crosshaven School Awards

The third annual Coláiste Muire Realt na Mara school awards were held in the Rochestown Park Hotel recently, and duly marked the achievements of students who had excelled themselves in academic, community and sporting codes throughout the past academic year.

School principal Donal O'Brien welcomed everyone to the schools awards ceremony, with a special welcome given to Caroline Counihan, President Cork Business Association who was the special guest this year and who presented the awards to each of the recipients.

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Scoil Chríost Rí past pupils bid farewell to their school

Many generations of Scoil Chríost Rí students returned to their Alma Mater on Friday evening, which obviously holds fond memories for the generations of secondary students who studied there over four decades.

It was their last chance to view nostalgic photographs and to meander through the corridors and classrooms of the school which closes at the end of this term. In September, Scoil Chríost Rí will re-open in a brand new structure at Borris Road.

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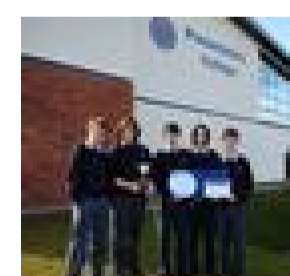


Eureka Secondary School Win All Ireland U-16 Ladies Gaelic Football Title!

Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co Meath recently won the All Ireland U-16 Ladies Gaelic Football.

Although having achieved many soccer All Ireland's in the past this was the first Gaelic All-Ireland win for Eureka.

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Monthly School Profile - Presentation College Carlow

We would like to thank Presentation College Carlow for contributing to our latest school monthly profile by sharing with us their recent news and events within the school.

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Reflecting CEIST Values



Challenge to Change

This year's Challenge to Change Seminar took place in the Springhill Court Hotel, Kilkenny on Thursday 13th May.

Challenge to Change is a Development Education project for young people in Presentation Schools, organised by Sr. Margaret Mary Healy PBVM and Liam Kilbride, and funded by the Presentation Sisters and Irish Aid.

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Young Social Innovators 2010

At the recent YSI showcase held in Croke Park on Wednesday May 5th once again students from our CEIST schools showed their enthusiasm and commitment to addressing issues of social justice and their belief that each of us can make a difference in our world.

This year 46 CEIST schools entered YSI with a total of 118 projects between them. Each project team was invited to present their Project at a one of six regional "Speak Outs" in March, and 20 CEIST schools were selected to participate in the YSI Showcase in Croke Park.

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Joining the Dots completes a second successful pilot run

Thursday 27th May 2010

Joining the Dots: Faith, Life, Teachers, Teaching and Theology is a programme in theology and spiritual renewal for teachers. The second pilot run took place during March-April 2010 in St Mary's Secondary School, Mallow. *Joining the Dots* ran for two hours over six Thursday evenings. 14 teachers from a host of different subject areas took part. The programme was facilitated by Amalee Meehan and Margaret Farrell, CEIST.

In a confidential survey, **100%** of participants said that *Joining the Dots* enhanced their understanding of Christian faith and their own spirituality

What the participants said (St Mary's, Mallow) . . .

"I really enjoyed the time for spiritual reflection with other people, the combination of intellectual rigour and the experiential, and the prayerful relaxation."

"The atmosphere was very relaxed and friendly."

"[Joining the Dots had] a lovely, respectful approach. Very good time management, facilitation and clear content, with a lovely blend of literature, theology and art. Thank you so much."

In answer to the question "what did you find most helpful about the programme?" participants answered:

- "Gathering as a searching community as distinct from a professional body."
- "The mystery of how God is at work in each person is very evident and heartening."
- "Time out to reflect and ponder the many questions I have wanted to explore for so long."
- "Talking to colleagues at a different level, so much deeper than "shop" talk."
- "I was glad of the opportunity to hear and read Scripture portrayed in a most enjoyable way. It has jogged my belief in God."
- "Having the opportunity to reflect on my spirituality and give myself space to think about me and where I'm going."

Click [here](#) for comments made by previous participants (Mercy Mounthawk).

Joining the Dots is a school based programme. It is an invitation to every teacher in the school, of every subject area, to explore their faith and connect it to their life, especially their work life. Through connecting how God is revealed with the deep desires of the human heart, it hopes to deepen participants' own faith, praxis and relationships – with God, with themselves, and with others - especially in the context of the school community.

There are no fees, no travel and no exams. It involves a maximum of two hours one evening a week for six weeks.

Course Outline

- Spirituality and life's journey: living life with meaning
- Being a reflective teacher: is it actually possible and why bother?
- *Imago Dei*: Who am I and Whose Am I - and whose are those kids!
- Jesus - the face of God
- Living and working from a Christian spirituality
- Connecting the dots: what this means for me, for us & for our school

For more information or if you would like to run *Joining the Dots* in your school contact:

Amalee Meehan, CEIST.
E-Mail: ameehan@ceist.ie
Tel: 086 1704714

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Presentation Secondary School Sexton Street Limerick Win Young Environmentalist Award

Monday 31st May 2010

On the 12th May, 2010, first year students, from the Presentation Secondary School, Limerick, were awarded by EcoUnesco, the Young Environmental Award in Environmental Sustainability. They were the only school in Limerick city and county, to be shortlisted for this national competition. The Presentation students, who called their project 'The Green Buddies' along with 50 other shortlisted schools, attended the Mansion House in Dublin, last Wednesday.



The project started back in October, when their teacher, Helen Ahern,

approached the students and asked if they would be interested in entering the Young Environmental Awards. After expressing an interest in gardening, the project got underway. Neither their teacher, nor the students had any experience in horticulture. The first step was to install a poly-tunnel in the school grounds (thanks to our school care-takers) which grew mainly herbs and some daffodils initially.

These daffodils were later given to St. Josephs Hospital by the students. Mr. Jake Daly helped the students install a water butt and this was then used to water plants. This showed the students the benefits of water conservation in an organic context. A composter was also installed and the students now compost waste from the Home Economics classes.

By March, the poly tunnel proved to be a great success. The students grew the following: runner beans, cabbage, lettuce, strawberries, parsley, onions, sunflowers, chives, leeks, sweet pea etc. When some plants ripened, they were then sold to teachers and parents and the proceeds are now re-invested into future gardening projects.

Besides the poly-tunnel, the students wished to renovate the school grotto. The students worked hard for five days, clearing weeds and they prepared the soil for planting. They put in flowers, ferns and heathers and finished off their excellent work by planting two weeping birch trees. The end result was much admired by the visitors to the school and by the judges at the awards ceremony.

Their teacher, Miss Ahern, spoke of the delight with their win. "These girls worked very hard on this project, and developed a genuine interest in horticulture. The fact they were one of only ten school categories to receive an award in Ireland is testament to that. When they visited Seed Savers in Scarrif last month, their teacher was particularly touched by one student's remark, "Miss, if you asked me a year ago where food came from, I would have said a supermarket, now I know it comes from the ground".

Members of Green Buddies: Denika Doyle, Rebecca Ahern, Amanda O'Reilly, Laura-Lee Daly, Sandra Ikeh, Naima Ghabyou and Chantelle Styles.

This was the first time the school entered this competition. 150 schools took part and the award that Presentation Sexton Street won was one of four overall winners.

Thanks to the many teachers who were involved in this project.



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St. Mary's High School Midleton Recent Celebrations

Friday 28th May 2010

On Friday 21st May St. Mary's High School Midleton celebrated the Official Opening of the New Extension which includes a magnificent new Sacred Space. The school also held their annual Prize giving Ceremony in the afternoon. Ms. Anne Kelleher, C.E.O. CEIST was the guest speaker at the awards ceremony, and officially opened the new extension.

The prize giving began with some wonderful entertainment from the students which included choral singing, solo singing, dancing, drama and instrumental music. In her address to the students Ms. Kelleher spoke of her delight at witnessing so much talent among the students and told those leaving the school to carry with them always the values which are so evident in St. Mary's.



Pictured above are the first year choir performing a medley of pop songs at

the prize giving.

During the awards ceremony students were honoured for their all round achievements, academic, sporting, musical artistic - but above all for their generosity of spirit through involvement in social justice projects and most particularly for their kindness and consideration to other students and their contribution to the whole school community.



Anne Kelleher CEIST CEO pictured above cutting the ribbon at

entrance to new extension.

After the cutting of the ribbon at the entrance to the new extension the opening ceremony began with a prayer service. Mr. Donal Cronin, Principal, then paid tribute to all of those responsible for the building of the extension and thanked all most sincerely for the great work achieved.

Ms. Anne Kelleher acknowledged the tremendous debt of gratitude owed to the Presentation Sisters and spoke of how this new extension, and particularly the new Sacred Space, was both a fitting tribute to the past and a place of great promise for the future.

The second year CSPE class are pictured below with teacher Helen Barry and Parents Council Chairperson, S. Cunningham tree-planting to mark the official opening of the CSPE Nano Nagle room in the new extension



Photo Album



Click to enable Adobe Flash Player.

Click on play button  above to view images.



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Christ King Girl's Cork recent events

Tuesday 25th May 2010

The Lord Mayor of Cork visited Christ King Girl's Secondary School on the 4th May to honour the school's attainment of Green Flag status.



The School also welcomed the visit of the Chinese Ambassador to the School and Minister of

Foreign Affairs on May 7th 2010 to open their Confucius Classroom to support the teaching of Chinese in Transition Year.



Pictured above (LtoR) Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Dara Murphy, Chinese

Ambassador Su Ge, Mr. Micheál Martin, Minister for Foreign Affairs and School Principal, Ms. Mary Keane.



Pictured above are Christ King Girl's giving a welcome to the Chinese Ambassador on his visit to

the School.



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Coláiste Muire, Crosshaven School Awards

Monday 17th May 2010

The third annual Coláiste Muire Realt na Mara school awards were held in the Rochestown Park Hotel recently, and duly marked the achievements of students who had excelled themselves in academic, community and sporting codes throughout the past academic year. □ □

School principal Donal O'Brien welcomed everyone to the schools awards ceremony, with a special welcome given to Caroline Counihan, President Cork Business Association who was the special guest this year and who presented the awards to each of the recipients. □



Pictured above the full group of award winners pictured with special guest

Caroline Counihan, President Cork Business Association; co-ordinator Colette Murphy and school principal Donal O'Brien.

He added that the evening was a tribute to outstanding achievements of students, staff and members of our local community, saying that the school were fortunate to have so many other students who are hardworking, considerate, kind, helpful and co-operative in the school, and went onto congratulate individually and collectively all the other students who create a positive, warm and welcoming environment at Colaiste Muire.

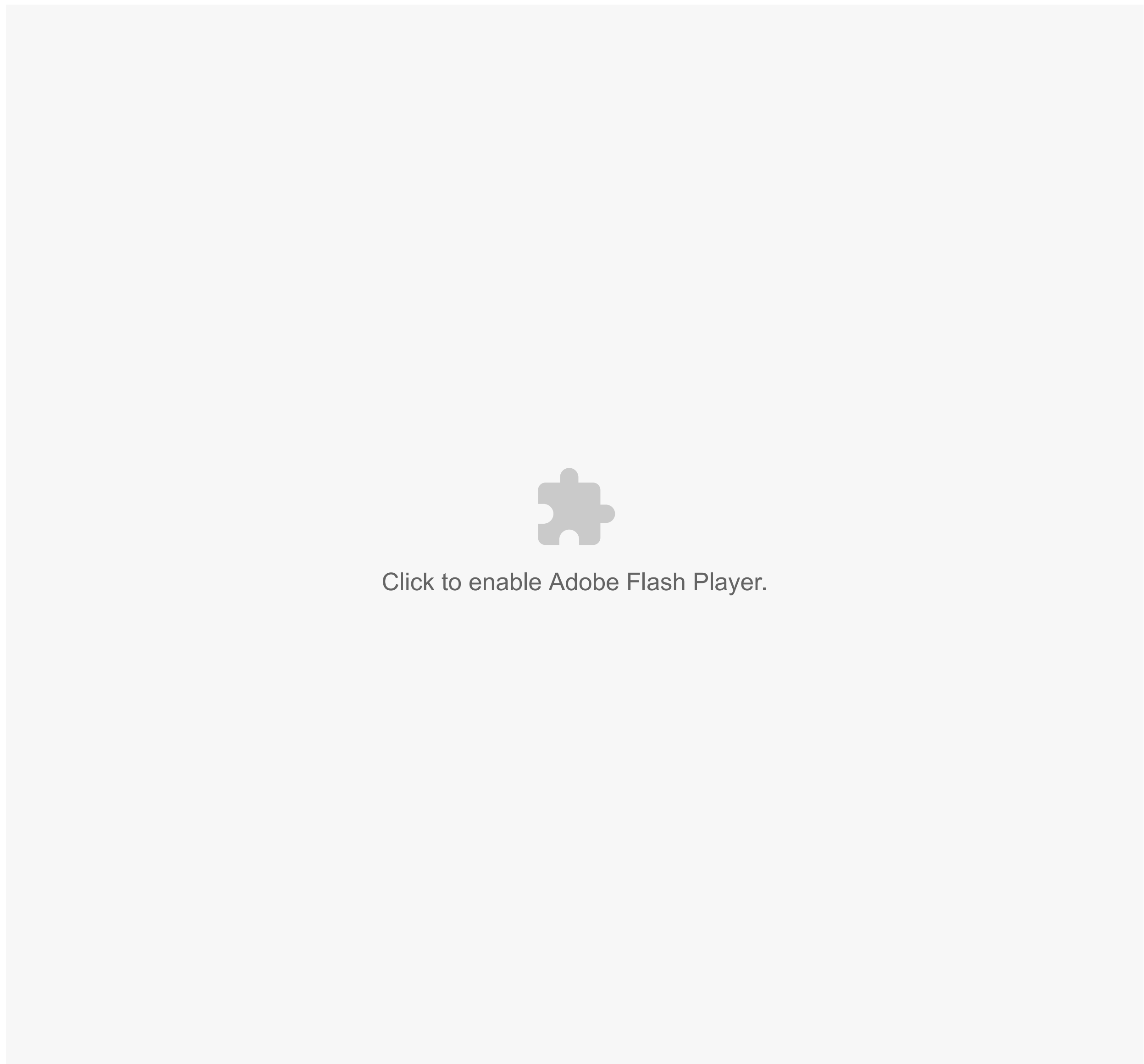
The presentation of awards followed, and consisted of Academic awards, Principals Awards for Year recipients, a number of achievement awards, including Art, Music, Technology, Environment, Voluntary and School Spirit.

Competition winners included the Cork City and County Enterprise Trade Fair where the school captured no less than four major awards, including Best Overall, Most Innovative, Best Overall Display and Best Overall Presentation.

A very special award was presented to Eoin Marron who went through the whole of secondary and primary school without missing a single day – a total of 2,466 days.

This years Hall of Fame Award was presented to former pupil Raymond Murphy who has won numerous pitch and putt championships, represented Ireland on numerous occasions and is regarded as Irelands Number One player. □

Photo Gallery





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Scoil Chríost Rí past pupils bid farewell to their school

Monday 17th May 2010

Many generations of Scoil Chríost Rí students returned to their Alma Mater on Friday evening, which obviously holds fond memories for the generations of secondary students who studied there over four decades.

It was their last chance to view nostalgic photographs and to meander through the corridors and classrooms of the school which closes at the end of this term. In September, Scoil Chríost Rí will re-open in a brand new structure at Borris Road.



Pictured on left at the reunion are (LtoR) Maire Croke, Sister Columba, Sister Maureen, Principle Helen O'Donnell, Sister Breda, Sister Maire-Therese Sweeney and Sister Evelyn Byrne.

Relocation was a major undertaking, noted Acting

Deputy Principal Ann Dollard. School caretaker Joe Donlon had found stuff under the stairs "going back years," she revealed. By the way, Ann herself is a past pupil of the school. Maiden name O'Reilly, she was, believe it or not, reared in the prison. Her father was the Governor.



Pictured above are Colette Lalor, Shiela Finnegan, Anne Dollard,

Stephanie Hennessy and Mary Tierney who attended the Scoil Chríost Rí re-union dance in Portlaoise.

Parents' Council members Mary Burke, Deirdre Fennell and Yvonne O'Reilly organized the reunion. Mary Delaney also greeted guests. From the school the past pupils went to the nearby SS Peter and Paul's Church for Mass and then to the Heritage Hotel for refreshments and more chat.

Bantile, a Banagher, Co Offaly, firm, built Scoil Chríost Rí in a section of the convent gardens. It opened on September 15, 1968, not long after the introduction of "free" secondary education. The brains behind the project was the far-seeing Mother Columba - she'll always be "Mother" to people of a certain age. Happily, she is still with us.

She, it was, who introduced girls' second-level education to Portlaoise in what was known as a "Secondary Tops" school. Past-pupils of that school, Mary Carmody and Ann Scully, were at the reunion.

Mary, from Mountmellick Road, sat her Leaving Cert in 1962. Her uncles, the renowned Lalors the wheelwrights, lived at Bridge Street.

Ann, also a member of an old stock local family, completed her Leaving in 1966. She was, so to speak, under the eyes of the nuns. She was reared at Church Avenue, just across the road from the Presentation convent and schools. After an absence of 35 years she has returned to live in Portlaoise.

The convent, alas, is now sightless, abandoned and a prey to vandals. The Presentations Sisters began their work in Portlaoise, then Maryborough, in 1824.

Sr Marie Therese King was the last nun to serve as Principal of Scoil Chríost Rí. Her successor is the current holder of the post, Helen O'Donnell. The first lay Principal of the school was Ann Young. Valerie Turley also filled the position for a period. All were invited to the reunion.

(Courtesy of Leinster Express 12th May, 2010).



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Eureka Secondary School Win All Ireland U-16 Ladies Gaelic Football Title!

Monday 10th May 2010

Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co Meath recently won the All Ireland U-16 Ladies Gaelic Football.

Although having achieved many soccer All Ireland's in the past this was the first Gaelic All-Ireland win for Eureka.



Pictured above the Eureka All-Ireland U16 winning team for 2010.

The success is in no small part due to their diligent coach and teacher Mr Wright and the amazing team spirit that he instilled in the girls.



Mr Wright, teacher and coach of the team, pictured above with the team receiving the cup.

Eureka had a very convincing win beating St Paul's High School, Bessbrook, Armagh with a final score of 4-10 to 2-8.



Presentation College Carlow

Presentation College Carlow is a co-educational voluntary Catholic secondary school, welcoming and serving pupils from all religions, races and backgrounds from first year through to sixth year.

Rooted in the values of the Presentation Sisters, and moving forward toward an exciting future, Presentation College provides a caring Christian environment where academic development and personal growth are achieved every day, providing students with the knowledge and experience to grow and develop into confident, knowledgeable, capable young adults.

All-Ireland Titles

The last week in April 2010 will go down as an exceptional one for Presentation College, Askea, Co. Carlow as they won not one but two All-Ireland titles in Croke Park!

Student Enterprise Awards

Five transition year students were the overall winners of the Student Enterprise Awards. The national final was held in Croke Park at the end of April. The team beat competition from thirty-five other student enterprises and won a trip to Barcelona with five hundred euro spending money!

Stephen O'Callaghan, Michael Stapleton, Paul Heffernan, Hugo Hughes Doherty and Paul Farrell, saw off competition from almost 15, 000 students to win the title with their Rap-it product.



The group's product, a keyring that prevents iPod or MP3 earphones from getting tangled, wowed the judges and guest speaker at the awards, Bill Cullen, was full of praise for the team.

According to the group's enterprise teacher, Christine O'Sullivan, the transition year project has "taken on a life of its own". "We were not really that confident to win, but we were happy when it was announced," said Stephen O'Callaghan. "Two Tube are going to buy some and we're talking to Vodafone and O2, we just need to finalise what they want. We have an international buyer interested in distributing it for us as well," added Stephen.

The students appeared on the Late Late Show on Friday night 16th April and pitched their businesses to two Irish Dragons - Sean Gallagher and Gavin Duffy. They displayed their products to Ryan Tubridy and the audience as well as to the two dragons, who were full of praise for the budding young entrepreneurs.



Pictured above Stephen O'Callaghan of RapIt on the Late Late Show with Ryan Tubridy.

Formula One Schools Competition

To cap a great week, Presentation College Carlow won the Overall Junior Category in the All-Ireland Formula One Schools Competition.

Team Quark who won the Overall Junior Category were represented by Ben Gibbons (Mangager), Brian Rowan, Oisín McHugh, Asia Laska and Richard Mynhardt.

The team also won Best Newcomers for 2010 as well.

The School's **Team Dynamo** won Best Engineered Car in the Senior Category. Conratulations also for **Team Kinematics** on reaching the Finals.

It is especially a great achievement for the school as, not only is this the first year they have entered it, but they are also the only school in the country to be represented by three teams! The school is also one of the few schools to machine their own cars in their new technology department.



Pictured above are the winning junior team, Ben Gibbons, Brian Rowan, Richard Mynhardt, Asia Laska and Oisín McHugh with School Principal Ray Murray, and teachers Ms. McHugh and Mr. Ryan.

Laska and Oisín McHugh with School Principal Ray Murray, and teachers Ms. McHugh and Mr. Ryan.

Capture the Power

Congratulations to Asia Laska and Daria Wolkow who took part in the Bord Gais Capture the Power Photo Competition.



Daria's photo was called "Magical Eye" and had a top twenty placing in

thousand's of entries nationwide.

Asia's picture was called "Scream", a picture she took of a friend while in Poland. Both girls are in Third Year and enjoy photography as a hobby.

AIB Build a Bank Challenge

On Wednesday March 3 the AIB Buckeroo Bank team along with their teacher Ms. Donnelly attended the Regional Finals of the AIB Build a Bank Challenge which was held in Kilshee House in Naas.

The students put on an excellent exhibition and scooped the prize for the best customer loyalty programme winning themselves an ipod shuffle each.



Pictured above (LtoR) Niamh Murray, Aine Doyle, Eimear Connolly, Tracey Deane, David

Brennan and Sarah Quinlan

The venture is run by a group of Fifth Year Business and Accountancy students (Niamh Murray, Eimear Connolly, Tracey Deane, Sarah Quinlan, David Brennan and Aine Doyle). Congratulations to Shelley Barcoe from Third Year who won Saver of the Month for February.

Past Pupils on Facebook

Presentation College, Carlow recently established a Facebook page for past pupils of the school. It has proven to be a fantastic resource for old friends to contact each other and find out where their former classmates are now.

We have 450 past pupils who have signed up as fans since last October and that number is increasing everyday. These former students are spread out over nineteen countries with 75% based in Ireland, but also as far away as Cambodia, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Thailand and Singapore. There is also a good spread of ages with over half those who signed up over the age of twenty-five and a healthy divide in the sex profile, with 58% female.

Past pupils can contribute to discussions on such varied topics as basketball teams of the past, school musicals from bygone years or simply relate tales from their time in the school. Interest has recently been expressed in starting a Past Pupils Union and we are very interested in hearing views on that.

Another recent feature that we have introduced on the page is the inclusion of Leaving Cert photographs from the 80s, 90s and 00s. We hope to upload one or two of these each week over the coming months and eventually expand it to include old photos from school activities such as sports, musicals, quizzes, etc.

Cecil Day Lewis Literary Award

Congratulations to Grace Byrne from 3rd Year St. John who received an award for her entry into the annual Cecil Day Lewis Literary Award Competition.

Grace and her family along with her English teacher, Ms. Christine O'Sullivan, were invited to the awards ceremony in the Athy Heritage Centre and Museum on Wednesday 28th April. Grace won the award for her One Act Play entitled Saving Stamps, Sandwiches and Azelaes.

Ladies Football Leinster Quarter Final

Hard luck to the Senior Ladies Football team who competed against Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore in the Leinster D Quarter Final recently. The girls put in a huge amount of effort and work over the past few months and were unlucky towards the end of an exciting game. Well done to their coaches Ms. Hayden, Ms. Delahunty and Mr. Kennedy and a particular word of thanks to P.J Digan Bus and Coach Hire for sponsoring a new set of jerseys.

Athletics

Congratulations to all the boys and girls selected to compete in the South Leinster Track and Field events. Competition on the day of the trials was keen and only the cream of the crop were chosen to go forward to represent the school. We look forward to continued success in competition and thank Mr.Delaney for his commitment to the sport.

Race Night Results

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent Race Night in the Seven Oaks Hotel. Many individuals and local businesses were very generous in their willingness to sponsor a race or buy a stake in a horse. The full list of sponsors is available on the [school website](#) and on the school newsletter.

Orals and Practicals

April and the early weeks of May are very busy times on the academic front for all our exam students. Boys and girls donned the aprons for the Home Economic practicals in the week after Easter while Irish, French and German orals were in full swing for the following two weeks.

Meanwhile the school was filled with wonderful sound of music as pianists, singers and drummers engaged in the music practicals. The early weeks of May will see further practicals in LCVP, Art, LCA and Construction Studies. Best wishes to all involved.

French Exchange

Presentation College are delighted to be the only Irish School selected for the Comenius Exchange 2010.

Presentation College Carlow welcomed a group of twenty nine French students, and two teachers from Nancy, France on Wednesday 3rd March.

They were met by their Irish exchange partners and began their stay with a guided tour of Carlow, including trips to Brownshill Dolmen, Carlow Castle and the George Bernard Shaw Theatre, followed by a visit to Kilkenny. Our visitors then spent some time with their host families and spent all day Thursday as guests of Presentation College, experiencing the Irish educational system at first hand. They visited Dublin on Friday and began their journey home to France.

The French exchange commenced for six Presentation students from Fifth and Sixth Year on Sunday 7th March. These students are Rachel Ward, Hayley Byrne, Aine O'Neill, Eimear Connolly, Tracy Deane and Ellen Murphy who along with their French teacher Ms. Cadnot will spend a week in Nancy immersed in French culture. During this time they attended school, participated in various activities with their exchange partners and spent a day in Strasbourg. Our students expect that their visit will help to improve their French in the most stimulating environment possible.



Pictured above are the French exchange group in Presentation College

Carlow.

Click [here](#) to view our school page for Presentation College Carlow.

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Challenge To Change 2010

Saturday 29th May 2010

This year's Challenge to Change Seminar took place in the Springhill Court Hotel, Kilkenny on Thursday 13th May.

Challenge to Change is a Development Education project for young people in Presentation Schools, organised by Sr. Margaret Mary Healy PBVM and Liam Kilbride, and funded by the Presentation Sisters and Irish Aid.

The vision of Challenge to Change is driven by the Presentation charism and ethos which embraces working with the marginalised and excluded in our world.



It seeks to raise awareness of, and to bring about greater understanding of, global inequality. Challenge for

Change engages young people in exploring ways in which their actions locally can affect, for the better, issues of justice, human rights and sustainability throughout the world.

This year the CEIST schools participating were:

- Presentation Secondary School, Mitchelstown: Going Green is the next Big Thing.
- Presentation Secondary School, Warrenmount: Promoting a Human Rights Friendly School.
- Presentation Secondary School, Ballingarry: A Green Fairy Tale Soon to be a Reality.
- Presentation secondary School Thurles: Where is Santa's Workshop.
- St. Joseph's College, Lucan: No Place to Call Home.

These schools presented their projects together with projects from 21 other Presentation Primary schools and Community Schools.

The day was very full as each group of students gave a brief overview of their project, showcased their work and attended the following workshops.

1. Debating Aid - Bertrand Borj (80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World)
2. Self-Help Africa - Patsy Toland (also examined aid and its implications)
3. Drumming - Eamon Cagney (The Spirit of the Drum)
4. Indian Culture - Sr. Alba Rodrigues (Presentation Sr.)
5. Fair Play for Girls and Boys around the World - Lucy Whittle and Dorothy from Waterford One World Centre.

The essence of Challenge to Change is embraced in the fact that this is not a competition in which there are winners and losers.



By virtue of their participation each group has brought an awareness to their school and local community of some

aspect of justice; each team has contributed to raising social consciousness and to improving our world and receives a Certificate of Participation in the Challenge to Change Development Education Project.

Congratulations to all those students who took part; and to their teachers without whose commitment, guidance and encouragement the projects could not be undertaken.

Sincere thanks to Sr. Margaret Mary PBVM and to Liam Kilbride for their hard work and dedication in harnessing the enthusiasm of so many young people and for bringing it all together in such a dynamic way.

The beauty of Challenge to Change is that Our World is the winner!



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Young Social Innovators 2010

Thursday 20th May 2010

At the recent YSI showcase held in Croke Park on Wednesday May 5th once again students from our CEIST schools showed their enthusiasm and commitment to addressing issues of social justice and their belief that each of us can make a difference in our world.

This year **46** CEIST schools entered YSI with a total of **118** projects between them. Each project team was invited to present their Project at a one of six regional "Speak Outs" in March, and 20 CEIST schools were selected to participate in the YSI Showcase in Croke Park.

Congratulations to **ALL** the project teams who participated in YSI 2010. Well done!

And special congratulations go to the following teams:

Mercy Mounthawk, Tralee, (pictured below) who won the **Silver Award** with their project "Emotion Promotion".



St. Mary's Secondary School New Ross (pictured below) who won the **Bronze Award** for their project "It's

Only Fair".



Mercy College Model Farm Road, Cork, who won the award for "**Making our Community Better**"

with their project, "Sex Trafficking – It Is Happening";

Mercy Heights Secondary School, Skibbereen, who won the award for "**Making our World Greener**" with their project "Caught Green Handed"

Scoil Dara Kilcock who won the "**YSI Fun Raising Award**".

Congratulations also to the students and teachers from Árd Scoil na Tríonóide, Athy, (**Paint Busters**), St. Mary's Secondary School, Mallow ("**Penny Wise**") and Presentation Secondary School Tuam ("**Broom & Bloom for Tuam**") whose projects were featured on Nationwide, and to all those students from CEIST schools who were featured in the programme. Click [here](#) to view the YSI website.

It is wonderful to see so many of our CEIST schools being involved in such projects. Sincere thanks and congratulations to the teachers without whose dedication and commitment such enterprising initiatives could not be undertaken, nor excellence achieved. 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 in our schools every day.



Pictured above students from Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál, Blarney, Co. Cork celebrate after being named Young Social Innovators of 2010 for their

project the Mill Youth Cafe.

Thanks also to Rachel Collier and her team for their dedication in encouraging so many young people to participate in YSI, and to develop, in the words of Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy on Nationwide, their "passion for justice, fairness and for what is right".

Click [here](#) to view Young Social Innovators on RTE's Nationwide.