

# Integrated Education

BRINGING YOU NEWS FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND  
COUNCIL FOR INTEGRATED EDUCATION...

Spring 2013



*Celebration of the first International Integrated Education Week @ Stormont*



## Ballycastle the centre of international communications once again!

**Launch of International Integrated Education Week 2013 (4-10 March, 2013)**

Each year, the start of spring is marked by the celebration of Integrated Education in Integrated Education Week.

This year, the event took on an international flavour as children from around the world joined our local integrated schools in celebrating the work of their schools in promoting respect and reconciliation through education. Through the use of social media, twitter and Facebook, and video technology, real-time communications drew attention to and celebrated Integrated Education. Schools, children and parents were invited to create a 'tweet storm' in favour of integration by tweeting their comments/support for integration to the hash tag #IIEW2013. The launch event on Friday 1 March was hosted by Ballycastle Integrated Primary School, Ballycastle.

The school showcased their talents in an assembly entitled 'Integration FM', featuring an imaginary radio station that outlined the developments in sending

messages and communication over the centuries. The school choir also entertained guests with their beautiful singing.

Ballycastle has increased enrolment by 150% in 5 years from 72 to 180 pupils, highlighting the growing demand for places in education in the Ballycastle area.

It was appropriate then that the launch took place in Ballycastle, famous for the transmission of the first radio signals. Marconi visited Ballycastle in 1898 and from there sent the world's first live 'wireless' report of a yacht race from a ship called 'The Flying Huntress' to a shore station at Kingstown (Dublin). It was fitting then that this launch was promoted through the use of social media.

Glengormley IPS and Cedar IPS joined us through video conferencing to tell us about their plans for IIEW. We had input from guest speaker Patrick McGrath of iTeach, highlighting how technology can enhance our links with the wider world.

### Inside this issue...

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# Celebration of IIEW

There was a celebration of International Integrated Education Week (IIEW2013) in the Long Gallery at Stormont on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013. IIEW is an annual event where integrated schools have the opportunity to come together and this year, the event had an international flavour. Children from around the world joined our local integrated schools in celebrating the work of their schools in promoting respect and reconciliation through education, through the use of digital technologies and social media (Facebook and Twitter).

The theme for this year's Integrated

Education Week is 'Me, We, Our World' and children and young people have been sharing their experiences of how they have been reaching out to other countries and embracing cultural diversity.

The guest of honour was Patrick McGrath of i-Teach, who highlighted the use of digital technologies to link the progressive work from integrated schools with the wider world.

Trevor Lunn, MLA, hosted this event which included a drama 'Connected', especially written for the occasion by Andrea Grimason and performed by pupils from Blackwater Integrated Col-

lege. The guests were also entertained by a steel band from Bangor Central Integrated Primary School and a choir from Priory Integrated College.

Rowandale Integrated Primary School, who recently won an incredible £25,000 in the Wicksteed Playscapes' Win a School Playground competition, gave a presentation on social media. Julie Macartney from Saints and Scholars IC shared how her school uses digital technology effectively to communicate globally with other schools and meet the requirements of the NI Curriculum in ICT.

## Strengthening links between integrated education in Northern Ireland and Macedonia

Noreen Campbell, Paula McIlwaine & Cliodhna Scott-Wills were honoured to be invited as guest speakers to a Conference organised by the Nansen Dialogue Centre in Skopje, Macedonia on March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2013.



**Noreen Campbell and Sasho Stojkovski, Director of the Nansen Dialogue Centre, Skopje**

Noreen Campbell addressed the Conference participants: "We were delighted to learn that you use the word that we use which is Integrated Education-bringing together children from different backgrounds and ethnicities educating them together. We think the work in integrated education is important for any young person, but in divided societies it is particularly important and we are delighted to share our experience with you, but we also know that we have a lot to learn from you...We hope that we can develop a partnership that will be for a mutual benefit for both organizations and both societies and for the future of the young people".

Following the signing of a memorandum of co-operation between the two organisations, as a symbolic gesture Noreen presented the Director of the Centre with a Hands of Friendship sculpture, designed by a student from the first integrated school 'Lagan College' to mark 20 years of integrated education in Northern Ireland. Noreen

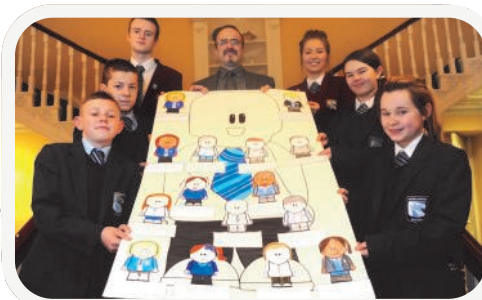
indicated that this sculpture would now also symbolise the mutually beneficial work between NDC Skopje and NICIE. On the first day of the Conference participants benefited from the opportunity to hear a presentation from Noreen Campbell about the history and development of integrated education followed by Cliodhna Scott-Wills speaking about the formal and informal curriculum in integrated schools in Northern Ireland. On the second day Paula McIlwaine led a participatory session on the anti-bias approach to integrated education.

The conference was very successful and we would like to thank our Macedonian colleagues for making us so welcome. NICIE look forward to a reciprocal visit to Belfast in May when future joint activities will be planned to ensure sustained co-operation between the two organisations.

The Conference formed an integral part of the training programme for teachers involved in integrated education and was organized by the NDC Skopje Training Centre - Nansen model for integrated education. The conference was attended by teachers, school directors and representatives from partner municipalities and the Bureau for Development of Education.







## “THICK OR THIN INTEGRATION – DEEP OR SHALLOW PEACE?”

### The 2013 All Children Together-Dunleath Lecture

NICIE were delighted that the 2013 All Children Together-Dunleath Lecture was given by Professor Brandon Hamber.

Professor Hamber is Director of the International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE), an associate site of the United Nations University based at the University of Ulster. He is also a Mellon Distinguished Visiting Scholar in the School of Human and Community Development, and the African Centre for Migration and Society at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The lecture was well attended on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March in the Canada Room at Queen's University. In his challenging and thought-provoking lecture 'Thick or Thin Integration – Deep or Shallow Peace?', Professor Hamber explored the challenges of building peace. We were also delighted that Dorinda, Lady Dunleath, was in attendance.

The Dunleath Lectures were started in 1997 by All Children Together to promote public debate on the issues facing the integration of Northern Ireland school pupils.



# NICIE Board of Directors welcomes new Chair and Vice Chair

The NICIE Board of Directors were delighted to recognise the outgoing Chair of the Board of Directors, Colm Cavanagh, for his outstanding contribution to both the cause of Integrated Education and to NICIE through his appointment to the position of President of the Council, a role which will ensure we can continue to use his expertise going into the future.

A new chair, Dr Ian McMorris was elected to the Board along with a new vice chair, Dr Helen McLaughlin.

Ian has served on the NICIE Board since 2010 and has been on the Lagan College Board since 1995 and Chair since 2003. He has also served on the CCEA Board and is currently on the Dale Farm Board.

Dr Helen McLaughlin joined the NICIE Board in November 2010. She has almost twenty years of experience working in the community and voluntary sectors, both as a paid employee and as an independent practitioner. Her areas of expertise are facilitation and training in areas related to group development such as strategic planning, leadership, lobbying, collaboration and negotiation. She also undertakes research including project and organisational evaluations, and reports. Her work includes *Women and the Conflict: Talking about the 'Troubles' and Planning for the Future* (September 2008), *Women in Disadvantaged Communities: Barriers to Women's Participation* (September 2009) and *Northern Ireland: A Learning Society - The case for protection and reform of spend on Adult Community Learning* (February 2011).

Helen currently chairs NICIE's Policy and Planning Committee, and is delighted to be part of NICIE at this important time for the development of the education system in Northern Ireland.

Ian writes below of his vision for NICIE going forward.

"Major changes are taking place in the world of education which is driving change in NICIE. These will be ongoing - one of the few things of which we can be certain is that there will be continuous change. Thus we in NICIE must also continue to adapt. Our CEO will play a key role in driving this change.

The biggest factor which has had and will continue to impact upon us is demographics. New school projects have all but dried up. This is because it is extremely difficult to get the required numbers in the areas where there has not been integrated provision to date. In most areas the Grammar School share of the annual cohort has been increasing as a result of the lower numbers of students of that age group.

It is also at least in part as a result of the receding memories of the troubles and whilst other things being equal, parents say they want integrated education, the priority given to that may be declining. This change as you will know has had a far reaching impact on the work of NICIE. The level of activity on new school projects is very low and is unlikely to recover.



**Ian McMorris appointed as the new  
Chair of NICIE**

NICIE will now play a major role through area based planning in protecting and expanding integrated education. I am pleased that NICIE will now sit at area based planning, as of right. NICIE's immediate aim will be to argue that a third of all available school places are made available to parents seeking an integrated choice.

NICIE has been asked to apply for the role of becoming a sectoral support body. In this role, the work which we do in the future will be about supporting and connecting existing schools and the work of 'integration in practice'. This new role for NICIE will present the challenge of providing an effective and responsive service to schools under the guidelines issued by DE.

The Board of Directors, through its poli-

cy and planning committee, has been involved in the development of policy.

Through this committee, NICIE has developed a policy on 'additional routes to integration' to support schools who do not want to follow the more formal route of transformation. There will be much work to be done helping other schools adopt the principles of integrated education if they choose to embark on the journey to become integrated. This is not a status that we see being granted lightly but only after a number of challenging benchmarks have been achieved.

Because of the increased volume of work created by area based planning, NICIE has established a panel of associates who have hands on experience which can be shared with the leaderships and boards of schools. This supplements our undoubted in-house expertise but allows us to offer a much wider range of assistance and expertise than has been available previously. This approach has the advantage that where necessary we can add to our panel as needs emerge.

Another factor driving change is the recently conferred NDPB status. This places a much higher level of accountability on the organisation. The Board has recently had a review of governance undertaken and is working hard to improve Board effectiveness.

To meet the challenges ahead, to respond to the changing environment we find ourselves in, it is important that we have an effective and proactive Board, leading an effective and proactive organisation.

Along with the new vice chair, Helen McLaughlin, I am committed to ensuring the board provides this leadership to the organisation. We are committed to the prudent and efficient spend of public money to achieve our aims. We are committed to promoting and expanding Integrated Education and to the support of existing schools. We look forward, through the CEO and her team, to connecting with the schools and their Boards of Governors as we go forward.



# Sharing Classrooms

## Deepening Learning

The Sharing Classrooms Deepening Learning project work closed 2012 in a flurry of activity including a high profile IFI launch in St Paul's High School Bessbrook on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>, the first accreditation session for teachers completing their certificate in "Exploring Skills in SCDL" and final developments for the SCDL web site going live. Further information on all project work, resources, training and accreditation, case studies and research is now available at: <http://scdl.co.uk>



Pictured at the Sharing Classrooms Deepening Learning event are Bernie Kells, SCDL Project Manager; Shannon Jennings, St Joseph's High School; Shea Loye St Paul's High School; Jason Clarke, Newtownhamilton High School; and Siobhan

The IFI launch event was attended by International Fund for Ireland Board Member, Siobhan Fitzpatrick CBE, Jennifer Wright DE, the 3 school Principals, young people and their parents from the local community. It marked the handing over of a shared sports jersey designed by 15 students from St Paul's High School Bessbrook, St Joseph's Crossmaglen and Newtown Hamilton High school. The jersey was produced as part of the induction and relationship building process that SCDL facilitators supported between students, as well as being a practical sportswear solution for students during their shared B Tech classes in sports studies.

Siobhan Fitzpatrick, praised the work of the project saying :

"Shared Education brings not just educational benefits, but wider societal benefits in helping to create a truly shared society here in Northern Ireland. Part of the unique challenge is ensuring all pupils involved feel welcome and that real mixing is taking place between them. The launch of the new shared jerseys at today's SCDL pupil consultation illustrates the first steps these students are taking to ensure exactly that happens. The evaluation results from today's SCDL pupil consultation will help us all take stock of the successes so far and creates an open environment to explore the best approaches in expanding this initiative and bringing our aspirations to reality in shared education for all."

Afterwards two focus groups with teachers and students from the three schools was carried out as part of the SCDL on-going research and evaluation about the impact of the work of the project. Principals, teachers and students spoke honestly and movingly about the significance of the collaboration between the schools, the positive impact on community relations and SCDL's contribution.

*'It has provided opportunities for schools and pupils to get involved. We can see the benefits filtering through. Attitudes and perceptions of parents have changed... things have got better.'*

*'This project is one small stepping-stone, one part of a journey which has taken it to a different dimension. It's only when children come together it grows.'*

It was a joyful occasion and the perfect lead up to Christmas peace and good will.

In the same week, seven teachers who had attended three days training in the first year of the project completed the last stage of their accreditation. Portfolios now completed, they each presented reflections and learning about implementing SCDL training in their classroom practice. They shared personal interests and commitments; evaluated successes and made fun of their "mistakes". All stated that their best learning was meeting and hearing each other. Listening to their presentations, I couldn't have agreed more. They were inspiring and humble.

After Christmas, preparations for further training in March intensified. Post cards were dispatched to principals and key contacts in all post-primary schools. Despite the unseasonal pre-Easter weather which played havoc with school closures, teacher travel arrangements, illnesses etc. 40 teachers still braved the elements and completed 2 days training in Armagh and Belfast venues. An accreditation opportunity in June 2013 will be available to all who participated. Training and support will be on-going throughout the summer term and also available on request from [bkells@nicie.co.uk](mailto:bkells@nicie.co.uk)

In March we trialled "in class training" at the suggestion of our ETI evaluators as a way of adding further flexibility to our training offer. This involved teachers identifying an area for their professional development and then being supported by a facilitator in school to deliver a series of lessons on the chosen topic - the flags issue was one example and features as a case study at <http://scdl.co.uk>

Finally, I want to thank Clare Murphy the project administrator for all her hard work and support during her time with the project. I would like to congratulate Clare on the birth of Daniel Brian Molloy, her first child, and wish the new family all the best for the future.



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

**The project is funded by The International Fund for Ireland (IFI) and managed by the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE).**



# Social Media @ NICIE



@niciebelfast



Nicie Belfast

In February NICIE launched its social media sites in the hope that they would be used as a platform for schools, parents, pupils and the wider community to share and celebrate the excellent work being done through integrated education. Both sites have grown rapidly in the number of likes and followers. During International Integrated Education Week local schools and our partner international schools used these sites to share the ways they were celebrating IIEW. Tweets came in thick and fast to the hashtag #IIEW2013 showing examples of work, comments and support for integrated education. We have also had the support of a celebrities retweeting and showing their backing of the work integrated schools do in NI e.g. Barry McGuigan and Brian Kennedy. Our Facebook page has been an excellent way to link with our partners in Macedonia through the Nansen Dialogue Centre. They have posted videos, photographs and messages of support during the week.

We hope to see continued development and use of these platforms and urge schools to send us any pictures, videos or comments they would like to share with the wider integrated community.

Please send these to [chamilton@nicie.org.uk](mailto:chamilton@nicie.org.uk) or [info@nicie.org.uk](mailto:info@nicie.org.uk).

## Facebook Competition Winner

Congratulations to Claire Murray who won our competition and is now the proud owner of an iPad2! Claire's children attend Acorn IPS, Carrickfergus.



## Check out the SCDL pages ...



@sclassrooms



Sharing Classrooms  
Deepening Learning





**nicie**  
NORTHERN IRELAND COUNCIL FOR  
INTEGRATED EDUCATION



Like us Facebook:  
  
Nicie Belfast

**#IIEW2013**

Follow us Twitter:  
  
@niciebelfast

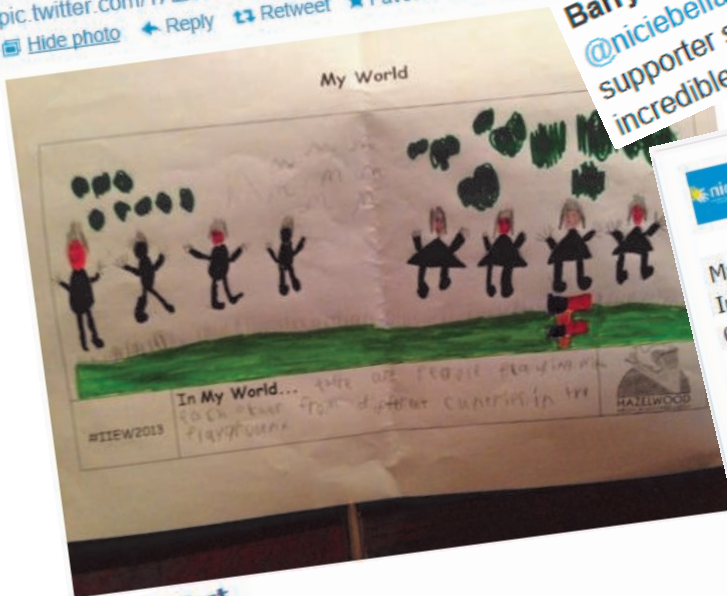


**Craig Weir @CraigWeir15**  
Strangford College feel honoured to be Integrated  
#thewayforward @niciebelfast



14 Mar

**Hazelwood IPS @hazelwoodips**  
'In My World there are people playing with each other in the field  
from different countries.' Ashton P5 #IIEW2013  
[pic.twitter.com/TAZc6G3TiH](http://pic.twitter.com/TAZc6G3TiH)  
[Hide photo](#) [Reply](#) [Retweet](#) [Favorite](#) [More](#)



**Barry McGuigan @ClonesCyclone**  
@niciebelfast I've been a Patron for at least 15 years and a  
supporter since the early 80's the work integrated education does is  
incredible

**Nicie Belfast** shared a link via Nansen Dialogue Center Skopje.  
8 March  
Marking International Integrated Education Week 2013  
Integrated Primary School "Marshal Tito - Strumica, Macedonia  
05.03.2013



**IIEW-2013 Strumica**  
[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

Marking International Integrated  
Education Week 2013 Integrated  
Primary School "Marshal Tito - Strumica,  
Macedonia 05.03.2013

**Nicie Belfast**  
6 March  
**Chinese lions visit Parkhall (3 photos)**

To celebrate International Integration Week Parkhall Integrated Coll  
invited a speaker from The Chinese Welfare Association on Tuesda  
March to talk to all year nine pupils. They heard about China and  
S...See more



**Eoin McFadden @EoinMcFadden**

Unlike their parents, the boys from our mixed marriage get to  
enjoy a truly integrated education environment @loughviewips :)  
#IIEW2013

**Priory College @Priorynews**  
Year 10 English students presenting items to their classmates  
that are important to them in their world. #IIEW2013  
[pic.twitter.com/Nz2WRlZBwU](http://pic.twitter.com/Nz2WRlZBwU)  
[Hide photo](#) [Reply](#) [Retweet](#) [Favorited](#) [More](#)



7 Mar

# NICIE Committees

## Teachers' Committee

The Teachers' Committee has had two meetings this term. In January it was hosted in Glenraig IPS where the discussion focused on International Integrated Education Week. All of the members shared their activities from previous years and ideas for this year's celebrations. Paula McIlwaine from NICIE also presented about the Evans Prize for Peace Education 2013. In March the venue moved to Crumlin IPS. The members evaluated their IIEW activities and the celebration event at Stormont. Caitrín Hamilton from NICIE highlighted NICIE's social media sites and how they were used during IIEW. Members discussed the potential of social media and other digital communication technologies. The next meeting will be held in Cedar IPS and there will be some training given in follow up to discussions about video

conferencing from the last meeting. Date, time and Venue of meeting is as follows: **Thursday 30th May 2013 1.00pm for 1.30pm @ Cedar IPS**

## ISFA

### New legislation Charity Status

There is new legislation coming into effect requiring all charity organisations to register with the Charity Commission for NI (CCNI). CCNI anticipate this will begin to happen later this year. As they prepare to gradually roll out this process, CCNI has begun gathering income and contact information from organisations previously granted Charitable status for tax purposes by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). We are currently liaising with CCNI and will aim to assist with this process which may

also involve a review of the schools memorandum and articles. In the interim we have enclosed the link to the CCNI website.

[www.charitycommissionni.org.uk](http://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk).

Please contact:

[mjohnston@nicie.org.uk](mailto:mjohnston@nicie.org.uk) for further information

## Dates for Diary...

Teachers' Committee	Thursday 30th May 2013	1.00pm	Cedar IPS
SENCO Committee	Wednesday 5th June 2013	1.30pm	Forge IPS
ISFA	TBC	TBC	TBC

Contact: Amanda Higgins if you wish to attend: [ahiggins@nicie.org.uk](mailto:ahiggins@nicie.org.uk)

APTIS Conference	16th & 17th April 2013	9.00am	Dunsilly Hotel
Parents Council Training	1st May 2013	7.00pm	Drumragh IC
Train the Trainers Programme (Peer Mediation)	16th & 17th May 2013	TBC	Antrim Board Centre
Community Relations Week	TBC	TBC	TBC





# Staff News...

Congratulations to Clare on the birth of her first baby, Daniel Brian Molloy!! From everyone at NICIE, the best of wishes to the new family!!



## Rowandale IPS Wins £25k in the Wicksteed Win a Playground Competition!

A lucky school in Northern Ireland is celebrating this week, following the announcement they have won an incredible prize of £25,000 in the Wicksteed Playscapes' Win a School Playground competition. The competition, which was open to all nursery and primary schools in the UK and ROI, was run through social media site Facebook and received hundreds of entries and thousands of votes over the 3 months it was live.

Rowandale Integrated Primary School fought off stiff competition to emerge as the overall winner to receive the substantial prize to transform their outdoor play area for the 150 pupils aged from 4 to 11 years.

To enter the competition, schools had to upload an image of their current outdoor play area and state why they were in need of the funding for their dream playground. It was then down to the school, parents and the local community to drum up votes for the school's appeal. The ten schools with the most votes went through to the final judging round and were individually visited by Wicksteed who were shown round the schools and given presentations by the children and staff.

Hannah Elliott, Assistant to Wicksteed's Commercial Director commented, "We have been overwhelmed by the response to the competition and the effort that many schools went to, in order to secure as many votes as possible. Some engaged their local media, posted flyers to the local

community and appealed to the support of their local councillors.

*We were also impressed by the warm welcome we received at each school on our judging visits and were treated to presentations, assemblies, playground models, art-work and even a video!"*

Following consultation with the Wicksteed design team, the new play area at Rowandale School will be installed over the Easter holidays and is likely to enhance their outdoor learning environment or create opportunities to challenge the children's physical abilities and encourage imaginative play.

Frances Hughes, Headteacher at Rowandale Integrated Primary school commented, "We are so delighted to have been chosen as the winning school to receive this incredible prize from Wicksteed. It means so much to us and will be a huge boost to the whole school community. Providing the opportunity for imaginative outdoor play that will cater for all abilities and stretch each child's physical skills is really important to us, and now we can make this happen."

The unsuccessful schools will be given advice from 'The Funding Doctor' an organisation that specialises in giving practical, grassroots funding advice for schools, community groups, small charities, local councils and social enterprises.



### Cambodia Youth For Change

#### PUB QUIZ

at

The Errigle Inn  
(Upstairs)

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May

7:30 PM

Disco till late

Recommended donation of £8 per ticket

Quiz starts at 8:00PM sharp  
Max.6 persons per team

Fabulous Raffle Prizes  
Pizza available

# School Jotter... Cranmore Creates a Healthy Community

Healthy Lifestyles Week at Cranmore IPS this year was jam packed with fun activities to promote physical activity and a healthier diet as part of an all round healthy lifestyle. We had a wide variety of visitors to school beginning with cage football provided by Youth for Christ. This was a great success and motivated the children to get more involved in sport while also helping them to recognise the benefits to their health. We also had a number of visits from charitable organisations including Action Cancer who provided a 'Parent's Lunchbox Session' to provide parents with simple ideas on how to provide their children with a healthy packed lunch, even on a budget. Another highlight of the week was the 'Fit Families' session run by the IFA. The idea behind this session was to bring families together through the medium of physical well being. It helped to provide family members with some hints and tips about how they could improve their child's lifestyle not only through physical activity but other areas including diet and sleeping patterns. As always



Pupils at Cranmore IPS taking part in Healthy Lifestyles Week

the week ended with our annual fitness day with 'Fitness Freddy', a firm favourite with the children of Cranmore.

## Crumlin Integrated College Hosts Attendance Workshop

Crumlin Integrated College in partnership with the Education Welfare Service Community Development Project hosted a very successful 'Attendance Workshop' on 26<sup>th</sup> February. The purpose of the workshop was to highlight the importance of good attendance at school with an identified group of pupils and their parents.

This informal workshop included a variety of activities and workshops to raise awareness of the responsibilities of parents, pupils and the school to continually promote good attendance.

100% of those parents attending felt the presentation was 'informative' and that they were now more aware of the consequences of not attending school.

The school intends to work in partnership with parents and pupils to monitor the progress of the scheme and this will include, for example, involvement with the school counsellor and other external agencies. Hopefully rewards and incentives will be given to those pupils who have improved their

attendance.

One parent reflected on the workshop by stating, "I was impressed and encouraged by the school's efforts and involvement."

Mr Adam McKeown Education and Welfare Officer for the school commented "An attendance project such as this, working in partnership with pupils, parents and the school, is a more proactive way of dealing with this very serious issue."



Parents and pupils at the Crumlin IC Attendance Workshop

## Schools support Comic Relief

North Coast IC organised and ran an events day to help raise money for the charity 'Comic Relief'. Red Nose Day was a non-uniform day for all pupils in the school. We asked everyone in the school to wear something red. The day started with the first ever 'NCIC Staff Bake Off', an amazing total of 20 different staff members entered the bake off. Congratulations to Miss Finlay on winning the trophy for her delicious baked 'raspberry cheesecake'. The day continued with a charity football match between 6<sup>th</sup> Formers vs Teachers, the game finished 1 – nil to the students. The teachers had to pay a forfeit of £20 each to Comic Relief. All in all a good day and a total of £730 was raised for the charity.



**On Friday 15th March, Strangford Integrated College held a fundraiser day for Comic Relief and the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children. It had six different events running throughout the day, all with the aim of raising money for charity.**

The Sixth Form of the College organised the day's events, while staff and pupils from all other year groups helped out. The events included a bun sale, face painting, football, raffle, street food tasting and busking around the site.

So far, Strangford College has raised **£1387.90** for two very worthwhile causes. Congratulations to all involved!



# BT Young Scientist & Technology

## Prizes for Oakgrove IC

Oakgrove Integrated College scooped three of the top prizes at this year's BT Young Scientist & Technology competition. The students Megan Duffy and Zoe McGirr won accolades of "Best School" & "Best Project" in Northern Ireland and second place, Biology.

Principal Jill Markham is overjoyed at the success. Describing her reaction, she said: "I received a phone call from Dublin on Friday telling me the results of the judging. I was absolutely thrilled and so proud of the pupils and staff involved. It confirms that excellent teaching, hard work and support are our proven recipe for success."

The event, held at Dublin's RDS from January 9 – 12 involved showcasing of projects by 541 schools who had been short-listed out of over 1800 entries from all over the country.

The journey to success started with a school-based discussion of plant germination. The project aimed to develop better methods of harvesting seeds from crops. The harvested seeds are replanted by farmers in developing countries. After three days of presentation and rigorous judging, the verdict brought success to Oakgrove in each of three categories.

Oakgrove's project won the University of Ulster's Specialist Prize for Best project in NI

as well as coming second in the category Junior Biology and finally bringing home the Matrix Award for the Best Overall School in Northern Ireland.

Speaking after Oakgrove's successes, lead teacher, Christine Gilmore said: "Just being accepted to as prestigious an event as the BT Young Scientist was achievement enough but, when the girls' names started to

be called out and for multiple awards, we could hardly contain ourselves! The girls worked so hard, so to have that acknowledged with such success, shows just what Oakgrove pupils can do with the right focus and support."



**Megan Duffy & Zoe McGirr won accolades of "Best School" & "Best Project" in Northern Ireland and second place, Biology**

## Ulidia pupils support N.Ireland Children's Hospice

Year 8, 9 and 10 Ulidia pupils recently took part in a Geography Spellathon to raise money for the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice. Staff from the hospice were delighted and honoured to be presented with a cheque for £850 this morning. They have expressed their thanks on behalf of the staff and families that will benefit from this generous donation.



**Ulidia pupil presenting cheque to N. Ireland Children's Hospice**

## 2013 Pramerica Spirit of Community Award

Congratulations to ICD Sixth Form Student, Hannah Fulton, recipient of a 2013 Pramerica Spirit of Community Award.

Hannah was nominated for the award by staff at ICD in recognition of all the voluntary community work which she carries out including; delivering anti-racism workshops, working as a youth worker, being an active member of Dungannon Youth Council and much more.

Hannah was delighted to receive the award presented to her by Principal of ICD, Mr Andrew Sleeth. He said, "We were delighted this morning to call Hannah to the stage during assembly to present her with the Pramerica Award and to give her the opportunity to speak to all her peers, to explain her active role in the community and make them aware of how they all can contribute to society".

The Spirit of Community Awards Programme was created by Prudential Inc. in the US in 1995, and has recognised more than 130,000 young volunteers over the past 17 years.





## Drumlins IPS book week - a real page turner



**Jim Shannon MLA reading at Drumlins IPS Book Week 2013**

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ulidia IC who has the highest success rate of any NI post-primary school at A-Level. Well Done!! to Ulidia IC who has the highest success rate of any NI post-primary school at A-Level. Well Done!!

Drumlins Integrated Primary School in Ballynahinch played host to a number of well-known local personalities and politicians who helped them to celebrate the school's innovative book week.

'What reading means to me' was the theme of the week which took place at the County Down school from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Drumlins Principal Janice Marshall said she "was absolutely delighted" with the range of people offering to help to make the school's book week a "real page turner".

Some of the well-known faces who have pledged their support to the event include: TV presenter Pamela Ballintine; Citybeat presenter Stephen Clements; World champion blind water-skier Janet Gray; and political representatives including local MPs and MLAs representing all main political parties. These politicians include Jeffrey Donaldson MP, Margaret Richie MP, Chris Hazzard, Sinn Fein education spokesperson, Jim Shannon MLA, Trevor Lunn MLA and Mike Nesbitt MLA.

One of the main aims of the week was to show Drumlins pupils that reading is fun, entertaining and informative.

Mrs Marshall said: "The week gave pupils the opportunity to meet and hear from people from many different walks of life. They got to hear what reading means to them and how it relates to their work. We believe this will help pupils to see that reading is not just a school-based activity but a global one."

The school received funding for the event from Ernest Cook Trust and it is linked to other initiatives developed by the school such as a book club.

The school also ran book competitions during the week with each class carrying out book activities focusing on reading, including a Pyjama Day on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March with bedtime stories, milk and cookies for everyone.



## Drumragh student wins prestigious art prize

Kellie McBride won the peace poster competition organised by Omagh Lions Club. Kellie saw off a host of competitors to win first prize, and now represents Ireland in the UK finals later in 2013. Kellie researched and executed the project, and her work was exhibited in the Strule Arts Centre.

## 'Aspects of Oz' Delightful

The Year 14 Performing Art students from Ulidia Integrated College in Carrickfergus put on their performance of 'The Wizard of Oz' on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March. The show was a delight to the audience – both young and not so young - who immediately engaged with the characters. The students performed to the professional standard that has become 'the norm' for all Ulidia Performing Arts productions. The students were wished well for their futures, whether in further study or the world of work.

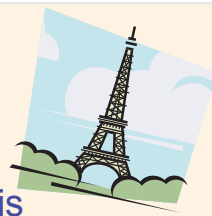
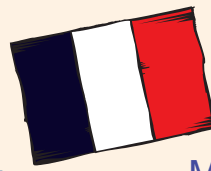


**Main Characters with one of the younger members of the audience, Katie Bonar from Fairview Primary, Ballyclare**



# Former ICD Student

## Winner at National TV Awards



### My Trip to Paris

Congratulations to Former Student of Integrated College Dungannon (ICD), Colin Morgan, winner of the 'Best Drama Performance' Award at the National Television Awards. Winning for his role as 'Merlin' in the hit BBC TV series, Colin drew more votes than performances by Sherlock's Benedict Cumberbatch, Doctor Who's Matt Smith and Daniel May, who played Ronnie Biggs in ITV's Mrs Biggs.

Colin studied at Integrated College Dungannon from 1997 until 2002, winning the 'Denis Rooney Associates Cup' for best overall student in Year 10. A keen musician and budding actor, Colin starred in several college productions including the renowned 'Surgical Sensations at St Senapods' and 'Bad Day at Black Frog Creek'.

Staff and students at ICD have followed Colin's acting career closely, with many ardent fans of 'Merlin' delighted to see him picking up the award.

Mr James McCoy, who taught Colin Drama at the college said, "I am delighted for Colin. His potential to become a successful actor was evident from a young age here at ICD. He participated wholeheartedly in every Drama class, concert and production that the college was showcasing. He loved Drama and he was a pleasure to teach."



**Colin Morgan, winner of the 'Best Drama Performance' Award at the National Television Awards**

I went to Paris for 5 days on a school trip from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March. On the first day we checked into Belfast airport and were all excited to be going to France. When we arrived in Paris we got on our bus and went to pizza hut. Then to the river seine where we got a boat trip around Paris and saw lots of famous landmarks like the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, Louvre museum, the Bastille and some famous bridges. Then we checked into our hotel and went to sleep after a very busy day.

On Saturday we had a walking tour around Paris in the freezing cold. I liked the street with the designer shops the best. Then we went to see the Mona Lisa and then some of us went to the very top of the Eiffel tower in a glass elevator. For dinner we went to a French restaurant called Bistro Romain and after we went to Montparnasse tower which we went up 56 floors in a lift in 40 seconds.

On Sunday we went to Disneyland Paris & Walt Disney studios where we went on loads of rides and went to lots of shops, we were there for the whole day. For dinner we went to planet Hollywood and after we got the choice to stay on at Disney land for the fireworks and celebrations for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary or we could go home to the hotel as it was cold so we were put into two groups so that everyone got to do what they wanted.

On Monday we went to a French school called St Justin where we met our pen pals and got a tour of the school. We also went the Arc De Triomphe and then we went the Champs-Elysees and shopping centre. Then we went for dinner at Restaurant "Le Saulnier" where some people tried snails. After we had finished dinner we spent the evening in our hotel.

On Tuesday we went to the Montmartre where we got our photos done and done a bit of shopping. After we went to Stade de France. We checked in at the Airport and got our flight home. I had a great time and would like to thank the teachers for looking after us so well.

By Charlotte & Lauren  
**Parkhall Integrated College**

## Let's have fun!

## @ Kircubbin IPS

Gee Whiz! Break and lunch time at KIPS...

So much to do. We had to draw up a rota!

Each day, each class, at break and lunch time is sure of a super play time.

1. Jungle Gym
2. Outdoor Fitness Gym
3. Bikes and Trikes
4. Balance Vehicles
5. Big Tube Slide Area
6. Pirate Ship Area
7. Playground (including roundabout, swings, sea saw etc.)

(also... Buddies, football pitch games, skipping games etc.)

There's something for everyone!



# Drumragh Integrated College hold family STEM Day

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March saw a group of families spend their Saturday morning in a slightly different way. In conjunction with Sentinus, Drumragh College invited P5 pupils and their families to come in and experience a range of activities centred around STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

Testing the load bearing weights of different types of paper bridges, building and firing rockets and creating motorised structures the families were put through their paces!

Mr. Eamon Duncan, who coordinated the day, said that "It was great to see parents investing time in their children and to see whole families enjoying the challenging activities" He wished to thank the facilitators on the day; Pat Jamison and Gerard Hughes and especially Mrs Eunice Bell for her help in organising the event.



Drumragh IC holds family STEM day

## Priory IC Choir gets the XFactor



When local primary school choirs gathered at Priory Integrated College's Choir Festival last week, little did they know that they would be joined by an X Factor winner! Pupils from Ballyholme Primary School Bangor, St Joseph's Primary School Ballyhackamore, St Patrick's Primary School Holywood and Glencraig Integrated Primary School, Holywood, joined senior pupils at the college for a festival of friendship and song. Throughout the morning they entertained each other with a varied repertoire of numbers including 'Let It Be,' 'Peaceful River,' 'I'll Tell Me Ma,' and "How Much is that Doggie in the Window."

come visit, but because it has been a wonderful opportunity to bring together girls and boys from different schools to celebrate their singing talents and make new friends. It has also been great to see Music Co-ordinators from different schools having the time to discuss ideas and share good practice. '

Head of Music at Priory, Ms Heather Ferguson said, 'Choral singing is a very popular extracurricular activity here in the college, so it was a real privilege to host this event for the primary schools this year. The highlight of the day for me was when we all, pupils and teachers, sang together and recorded 'This is Why we Sing'. It was beautiful and it made all of the hard work worthwhile. I can't wait to hear the recording.'

All of the schools involved received a certificate and a CD recording of the day from the college. Funded by the Integrated Education Fund, the college hopes that the Choir Festival will become an annual event for primary schools throughout North Down and East Belfast in the future. The CD recording of the day will be available to members of the public from the college, and will feature all of the choirs that participated this year.



Rehearsals were just beginning on a joint rendition of 'This is Why We Sing' when 2010 X Factor winner, Joe McElderry arrived, and was welcomed by a hall full of thrilled pupils. Joe spoke to the pupils about his X Factor experiences and his career since winning the talent competition, encouraging them all to aim high and follow their dreams. 'He was so friendly and down-to-earth,' said Sarah Heath, currently studying A Levels at Priory and a long standing member of the college choir, The Priory Singers. 'It was really interesting to hear how his career has developed and the challenges he has had to face since winning the competition.'

'Today has been really special,' said Priory Principal Jacqui Argument, 'Not just because of Joe's very wel-





# Slemish College Student Emma Dillon Elected for Youth Parliament!



**Emma with Principal Paul McHugh (far right) campaign manager Jordan Miller and Ian Paisley Jnr who gave her some pre-election tips!**

Standing for the North Antrim constituency seat in the UK Youth Parliament, 17 year old Slemish College student Emma Dillon has always had a passion for politics. At the tender age of four, Emma began attending public speaking but little did she know that one day her skills would be put quite as much to the test. The opportunity to stand for election was a dream come true for Emma who said "I've always dreamt of the opportunity to give young people a voice, and a make a real difference to their lives. Through the medium of the UKYP I know this will be possible."

The UKYP was set up to enable young people to have a say in their local area and to bring up issues that matter to them and their community. Moreover they will be involved in a nationwide debate in The House of Commons about issues that affect all young people across the UK. Over 250,000 votes were cast in the last round of elections, as young people right across the country found their voices and voted on matters important to them.

Emma encouraged people to vote for her, saying,

"I am committed to raising the issues put forward in my manifesto in the House of Commons, where I hope they will be taken seriously. I want real action to take place to ensure the views and wishes of young people are not ignored by those in the corridors of power."

Emma's three main policies are:

1. An integrated education system to foster community relations from a young age, leading to a more integrated society.
2. An equal and fair minimum wage for 16-19 year olds, to ensure 'the same work done, means same money paid'.
3. A reduction in public transport fares, to enable young people to travel with less expense whilst helping the environment in the process.

# Alastair is Entrepreneur of the Year

Blackwater Integrated College student, Alastair Campbell was recently announced as Entrepreneur of the Year on the 2012-13 KEY Programme, organised by Young Enterprise NI.

Alastair and ten other students from Blackwater participated in three residential courses also involving students from Belfast and Monaghan. Students undertook a range of activities to develop their business skills and their abilities to work in teams. They also had a day's training in interview skills then experienced mock interviews carried out by local business people.

As Entrepreneur of the Year, Alastair now has the opportunity to compete for a place on the team that will represent Northern Ireland in Canada in the summer.



# Spires' pupils receive Anti - bullying Award at Stormont

Primary seven pupils at Spires Integrated Primary School, Magherafelt attended an award ceremony on 4<sup>th</sup> March to mark their achievements in the area of anti - bullying. They received the Diana Anti-bullying Award from Nelson McCausland MLA and were praised for their efforts in this area by Tessy Ojo (Executive Director). The Anti - bullying Award recognises the contributions of pupils in the UK and receiving this award was quite a feat for the Magherafelt students. The Award was in recognition of the pupils' involvement in the Peer Mediation programme. The pupils are trained in the area of peer mediation and how to implement the buddy programme effectively. During their final year of primary school, they give up their own time selflessly to assist others. They follow procedures to guide their peers through the mediation process, ensuring that all pupils have an opportunity to talk about their problem and they work together to reach a solution. They actively encourage the younger pupils to form friendships through playground activities, thus helping to develop their self - esteem and social skills. Mrs Bell, principal of Spires Integrated Primary School commented 'We are immensely proud of these children. They are enthusiastic, caring and thoughtful individuals. They are excellent role models for other pupils and we are delighted that they have received this award.'



# Sports News from the Integrated Schools



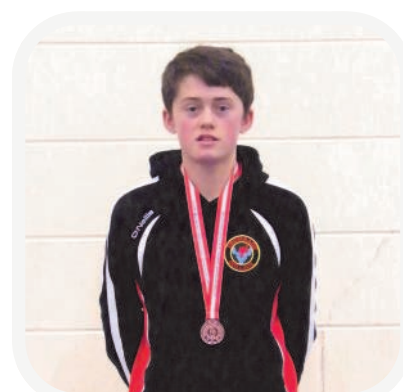
Drumragh IC year 8 rugby team won a place in the Ulster Under 12's Regional Championship.



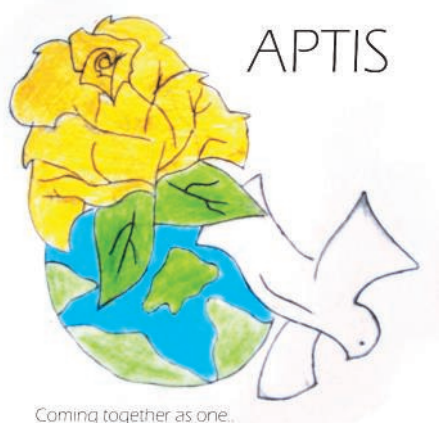
Congratulations to Kenny Cloke, a year 8 pupil from Ulidia Integrated College who has just won 3rd place in the Ulster Schools Table Tennis Tournaments. Kenny is a keen table tennis player but this is the first time he has represented his school. The Principal, staff and pupils of Ulidia would like to congratulate him on this fantastic achievement.



The Handover of the World Peace Flame from students at Nazareth House PS Derry to Oakgrove Integrated College  
Front from Left: Finn Curley Hannaway, Cormac Doherty, Jeanie McLaughlin, Jodie Gallagher Front From Right: Mr O'Hea (Principal Nazareth House), Kealan Lafferty, Jordan Clarke, Paulius Burneika (Deputy head boy of OIC) and Ciara Corr Head Girl Oakgrove IC and Ms Jill Markham Principal of OIC



Matthew Murnaghan, a Year 8 student from Drumragh Integrated College came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the E District Cross Country trials, and will go on to qualify for the Ulster County Championships.



APTIS

## APTIS logo competition

Congratulations to Mia Brown from Newbridge Integrated college who won the APTIS logo competition. £50 voucher is