

JCSP

Newsletter

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE SCHOOL PROGRAMME



Issue 7 October 2008

See Inside

- * Latest on Initiatives
- * Make A Book 2008
- * Larcy College and Local Library Link Up
- * Writers Master Classes
- * Close-up on Carrick on Shannon Community School
- * Competition
- * Library Launches
- * Resources and Materials

Research Findings on Impact of JCSP

The JCSP initiatives are an integral component of the JCSP Literacy and Numeracy Strategy. According to our recent research the impact of established JCSP literacy initiatives such as the Reading Challenge, Readalong, and Who Wants to be a Word Millionaire, is evident not only in students' improved reading test results, but also by the number of schools that continue to use and develop these interventions from year to year. The scope for a creative approach to general literacy is illustrated by the array of new JCSP initiatives that schools have been encouraged to try including Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) and Digital Storytelling.

In JCSP the development of literacy skills is coupled with empowering children to become numerate. The importance of addressing numeracy is highlighted not only by the extensive range of everyday life activities that require calculation skills but also by the evidence of an increasing rate of developmental dyscalculia in schools throughout Europe (Chinn, 2004). JCSP numeracy interventions offer a variety of strategies for developing students' numeracy based on the position that arithmetical and numerical knowledge can only be achieved through the balanced integration of procedural and conceptual knowledge (Baroody, 2003; Resnick, 1982; Van Lehn, 1990). Research suggests that an informal approach to numerical concepts and procedures results in more effective learning (Copley, 1999; Nunes, 1992). Mathematical games and active instructional interventions, components of the JCSP Numeracy Initiatives, have been shown to have a range of benefits including increasing children's motivation, supporting positive attitudes towards Mathematics, allowing students to try new strategies and stimulating logical reasoning (Blum and Yocum, 1996; de la Cruz, Cage and Lian, 2000).

Since 1997 schools participating in the Junior Certificate School Programme have enhanced their students' experience of the Junior Cycle through the use of initiatives. The Initiatives Programme provides schools with support to run and measure the effectiveness of innovative teaching strategies. The evolution of JCSP initiatives during the past ten years and the documented impact of these on students and teachers alike, reflect the range of elements considered to be integral to developing a culture of life-long learning. The JCSP initiatives offer teachers the opportunity to adapt or devise teaching strategies that entail active learning and that focus on whole

child development. The procedure built into the programme whereby teachers review the process of conducting initiatives and disseminate their findings through evaluation reports and in-service seminars has created a JCSP knowledge network that encompasses, supports and provides for students, teachers, and schools, as well as for the wider community.

An analysis of the impact of the JCSP Literacy and Numeracy Strategies in participating schools for the academic year 2006-2007 was carried out by the JCSP Researcher, Jean Henefer and is available on www.jcspliteracy.ie. The effects of these strategies on JCSP students was primarily drawn from quantitative and qualitative data provided by teachers who have described and evaluated literacy and numeracy initiatives run in their particular schools this year.

Based on the data from the submitted reports **4,237** students, supported by **490** teachers, participated in literacy and numeracy initiatives, although this figure does not allow for students' involvement in more than one initiative. JCSP co-ordinators were given information about the range of over fifty initiatives that schools could make applications to run during the academic year 2006-2007. Amongst the fifty initiatives available to schools twenty-eight were Literacy or Numeracy Initiatives. The range of initiatives included:

| Subject Initiative | Number of Schools |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Gaeilge | 36 |
| Christmas cross-curricular project | 82 |
| Home Economics | 11 |
| Modern Languages | 18 |
| Physical Education | 14 |
| Geography | 13 |
| Science | 17 |
| JCSP Folders/software | 20 |
| Guidance | 24 |
| Arts | 35 |
| Twinning | 3 |

| Literacy Initiative | Number of Schools |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Keyword | 7 |
| Word millionaire | 10 |
| JCSP General Literacy | 2 |
| Readalong | 21 |
| Primary picture books | 4 |
| Book Review | 8 |

Literacy and Numeracy Initiatives

| | |
|---|----|
| Pen- pal | 11 |
| Paired reading | 18 |
| Digital Storytelling | 7 |
| Disposable Camera | 10 |
| Author in Residence | 3 |
| Curiosity Packs | 3 |
| D.E.A.R | 6 |
| Storytelling | 12 |
| Spelling Challenge | 9 |
| Reading programme in the English classroom | 15 |
| Readathon | 7 |
| Reading corners | 20 |
| Reading Challenge | 39 |

| Numeracy Initiative | Number of Schools |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Make your own opoly | 11 |
| General Numeracy | 9 |
| Paired Maths | 8 |
| Cross Age Paired Maths | 1 |
| Maths Games | 13 |
| Flashmaster | 20 |

| Total Number of Initiatives 2006-2007 | Number of Schools |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Subject | 261 |
| Literacy | 229 |
| Numeracy | 62 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Total number of projects | 552 |
|---------------------------------|------------|

Over the years, the feedback received from teachers who have run JCSP initiatives has offered evidence of the positive benefits of these interventions for their students and has also provided documentation of the rich and varied approaches taken with initiatives in individual schools. Dissemination of this wealth of material through in-service, JCSP newsletters and publications has enabled other teachers to experiment with initiatives in their schools, often developing their own unique and creative approaches to literacy and numeracy interventions. The evaluation procedure additionally has led to the development of new JCSP initiatives across the years.

Quantitative Evidence Pre and Post Testing

While the use of standardised pre and post testing would not be relevant or appropriate in the context of certain initiatives, others lend themselves to this type of evaluation, and in such cases those schools are encouraged to administer pre and post tests to the JCSP students participating. Data provided by teachers from the 166 evaluation reports submitted to the JCSP Support Service by the end of June 2007, reveal that over a quarter of evaluated literacy initiatives this year conducted pre and post tests with participating JCSP students with over 20% of reported numeracy initiatives employing similar measurements.

The percentage improvement as a result of participating in these short term interventions is very encouraging:

| Initiative | % improvement in test results |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Reading Challenge | 76% |
| Paired Reading | 94% |
| SRA | 47% |
| Readalong | 91% |
| Word Millionaire | 62% |
| Spelling Challenge | 100% |
| General Numeracy | 82% |
| Maths Games | 75% |
| Paired Maths | 44% |
| Flashmaster | 62% |

Quantitative Findings

In addition to the data regarding pre and post testing, the evaluation report provided teachers with an opportunity to systematically identify a range of outcomes for both students and teachers.

Teachers overwhelmingly concluded that through participation in the initiatives, their JCSP students had developed both their literacy and numeracy skills.

The quantitative section of the evaluation report asked teachers to assess the impact of the initiatives on participating students in a range of areas including academic skills development, attendance, behaviour, self-esteem, motivation, etc. In summary, the data from the submitted evaluation reports indicate that initiatives made a contribution to developing students' individual and interpersonal working skills with 89.2% of teachers reporting that students were afforded the opportunity to work independently and 77.7% responding that the initiatives encouraged their students to work co-operatively with their peers.

Additionally the initiatives were found to contribute positively to other aspects of their education experience in the following ways:

- Contribution to students' cross-curricular knowledge 61%
- Improved Attendance 21%
- Improved Behaviour 75%

Additionally it was found that the initiatives contributed to the students':

- Increased Confidence
- Positive Attitudes and Motivation
- Sense of Achievement

The majority of teachers who conducted literacy and numeracy initiatives were positive about the experience to the extent that they would be interested in repeating the initiatives and had no aversion to recommending their use to fellow educators.

The following are quotes received from teachers in relation to various initiatives :

Primary Picture Books: *My students in full uniform. I can honestly say that I was very impressed at, and proud of, the way they sat with their little groups of first class students and read 2 books to them. One of our students was so nervous he*

Did initiative contribute to students literacy skills?



Figure 1: Outcomes for Students: Initiatives' Contribution to Students' Literacy Skills

Did initiative contribute to students numeracy skills?

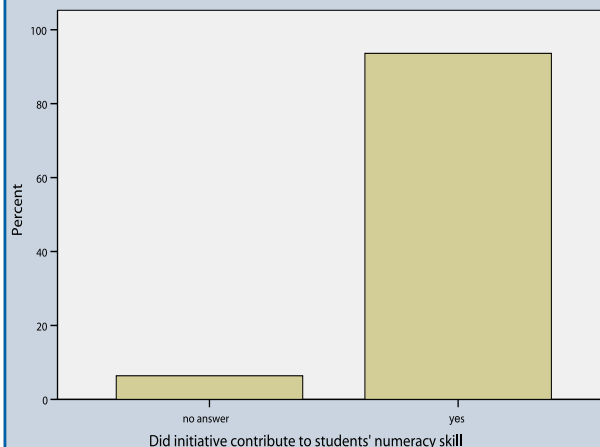


Figure 2: Initiatives' Contribution to Students' Skills

was literally shaking but he was delighted with himself. They were MODEL students and were very pleasant to the younger ones. One girl comes to mind. She has some behavioural problems and can be hostile. However on that day she managed her group (which could have been lively) in a firm, positive way. I would definitely do this again. Can I also add that the parents of the primary students thought that this was a fantastic event and the principal has requested that we do it again.

Reading Corners: *The corner attracts and creates an interest in reading for the students. It provides an opportunity for students to make their own selection in reading materials. To discuss reviews and share common characters and authors. It is opening up a new world for them in a comfortable, colourful surrounding and with the addition of background music and now reading is no longer regarded as school work but something to be enjoyed.*

Flashmaster: *The majority of students in the classes selected would have difficulty with tables: a necessary core skill in Maths and their confidence in the subject are greatly affected as a result. They see it very much as a primary skill and it's very hard to develop it at second level, without lowering student's self-esteem. Accordingly all the teachers were eager to get involved in this initiative. The students were equally enthusiastic and excited when they laid eyes on these devices. They thought they were 'cool' and were very receptive to using them.*

She continued to describe the long-term benefits of the initiative for her students as follows:

With the Flashmasters the students were able to work independently on different levels and at their own speed. Consequently all students were able to experience success. The potential of these devices was seen predominantly while observing one student. This particular young man has a learning difficulty; he's rebellious, poorly motivated and would find tables especially challenging. He really enjoyed using the Flashmaster and was absolutely thrilled when he got 100% in a test, he proudly told the others in the class and the students were surprisingly very supportive, largely due possibly to the non-competitive nature of this initiative. Overall the students really enjoyed the initiative and ask regularly to use them.

Conclusion

It is evident, based on both the quantitative and qualitative data collected this year that the JCSP Literacy and Numeracy Strategies are operating effectively in schools that participate in the programme. While it is clear that there is variation in the degree to which individual schools are implementing the strategies, there is evidence that in some schools literacy and numeracy initiatives are on-going processes with certain interventions being run each year as a matter of standard practice. Teachers are provided with the opportunity to evaluate and reflect on the methods they have used to work with their JCSP students and this has enabled them to, over the course of a number of years, develop and refine their pedagogical approaches to delivering the literacy and numeracy strategies. This aspect of professional development, that is inherent in the programme, also allows for the dissemination of methodologies and practices to assist and inspire other teachers to develop their own creative approaches to improving the literacy and numeracy skills of their students.

JCSP Initiatives 2008–2009

This year the number of initiatives that we offered to schools continued to grow. There are now a very wide range of initiatives on offer. Watch out for the in-service 'How to run JCSP Initiatives' being run in three venues on October 14th 2008; this course will outline tried and trusted ways to get your initiatives up and running with tips and advice from other teachers in the JCSP network. We wish you all every success with your JCSP Initiatives in the coming year and look forward to visiting and reading about your success in the Evaluations.

I. Subject-Specific Initiatives:

English

English Pen-pal: can be used with English Statement No. 8 and the *Letter Writing Workbook*.

English Camera Initiative: schools can use the student photos to generate interest in creative writing and project work in English perhaps with a view to students exhibiting their completed work at Make A Book 2009.

Gaeilge

Irish Morning: schools host an Irish Morning.

Simulation: simulating real life, eg. village street, etc. gives opportunity for practising Gaeilge.

Gaeltacht: JCSP students turn their school/class into a Gaeltacht or visit a Gaeltacht region.

Software: Relevant software/educational materials could be purchased by the Irish Department for use with JCSP students.

Ceili: Host a céilí with a snack shop 'as Gaeilge'.

Storytelling: Bilingual Storytelling with an outside storyteller/seanacháí.

Bodhrán/Traditional Instrument Initiative: combining music and Irish Cultural Studies.

Gaeilge Camera Initiative: student photos to generate interest in creative writing and project work in Irish.

Physical Education

PE Initiative: students complete Statement 6 for Physical Education by participating in one of the following activities: hill walking, canoeing, rock climbing, orienteering, sailing or windsurfing.

Science

Science Initiative: developing creative approaches to the teaching of Science to JCSP students.

Modern Language Initiative: purchase of relevant software/magazine or website subscriptions/materials.

Modern Languages Camera Initiative: schools can use the student photos to generate interest in creative writing and project work in a Modern Language.

Field Trip Initiative: students to work on a field trip statement in Geography, History, Science or ESS.

Practical Subjects:

This initiative will provide opportunities for schools to develop creative approaches to the teaching of one of the following:

Home Economics/Materials Technology Wood/Materials Technology Metal.

Celebrity Chef – Home Economics: The funding for this initiative will provide schools with an opportunity to link with a local 'Celebrity Chef'. This initiative will introduce an imaginative and innovative dimension to cooking for JCSP students.

Humanities:

This initiative will provide schools with an opportunity to develop creative approaches to the teaching of one of the following: **History, Geography, or ESS.**

Subject Topic Boxes: with this initiative schools can source and purchase subject topic books (excluding text books) and resources related to individual subject areas. This will be relevant to all subjects.

2. Developing the Arts Initiatives:

Drama or Dance or Music Initiative: schools look to local or regional drama and dance or music groups who offer workshops to schools in areas such as performance, improvisation, mime, clowning, dance and movement, storytelling, music etc.

Trip to Art Gallery: aims to enrich students' artistic and aesthetic education in a stimulating and inspiring environment where they are allowed to interact with and respond to works of art.

Samba Music in a Cross-Curricular Initiative: students learn to perform Samba Music and participate in a cross-curricular project related to Brazil and/or carnival.

Artist in the Classroom Initiative: focuses on creative visual skills development where an artist works for a short time with a group of JCSP students. The aim would be to produce a piece of work that could then be exhibited or to enhance the student's Make A Book entry.

3 General JCSP Initiatives:

JCSP Student Folder Photograph: co-ordinators purchase a photo printer and cartridges for JCSP student and teacher use. This adds an exciting dimension to student folder work and displays of students' work.

Christmas Celebration: this particular initiative enables JCSP students; their parents and teachers to join in a celebration.

Twining with another school: includes a joint collaboration on a cross-curricular project.

Study Skills and Guidance Initiative: developing study skills and transfer programmes.

Arts and Crafts: this initiative is to encourage the development of creativity through the medium of arts and crafts. The subvention provides schools with the opportunity to purchase a variety of engaging and stimulating materials.

Film Making Initiative: this initiative offers schools an opportunity to explore the area of digital film making as a small group of schools will be offered an opportunity to participate in a very exciting project where students and teachers will be taught the art of film making over the course of producing a film. Under the guidance of professional film-makers students will produce a video. And learn about storyboarding, screenwriting, directing, and camera, lighting, sound and editing. Teachers will also be trained in some of the practical aspects of film making so that they can monitor the progress of the students.

Chess Initiative: this JCSP initiative will provide schools with an opportunity to teach the game of Chess to JCSP students. The funding can be used to purchase chess sets, organise a chess club or link with other JCSP schools for chess tournaments.

Specific Literacy and Numeracy Interventions

Many of these initiatives have a research element where teachers are asked to pre and post test students, as well as administer a questionnaire before and then on completion of the short-term intervention:

4. Reading Interventions:

"Who Wants to be a Word Millionaire?": a short-term reading intervention, which challenges a class group of JCSP students to engage in recreational reading, at home with the support of their parents, and to collectively read a total of one million words. Support materials are provided to schools.

Also "Who Wants to be a Word Millionaire?" Top Up

Reading Challenge: a short-term reading intervention, developed by a JCSP school co-ordinator. Students are challenged to read a book a week for six weeks. Parental involvement is an element of this intervention. Reading Challenge motivates students to read and review books; they also track their reading and are awarded for successfully meeting the reading challenge. Support materials are provided.

Also, Reading Challenge Top Up.

Readalong Initiative: a short-term reading intervention where students read while listening to the book being read on tape or CD. Students can also review the books and track their reading. Support materials are provided.

Also, Readalong Top Up.

Paired Reading Initiative: a short-term reading intervention. Students reading is supported by a tutor. Paired Reading runs 3 to 4 times a week for six weeks. A Paired Reading Initiative can work where JCSP students act as tutors to a primary school class, or senior cycle students are reading tutors for a JCSP class or parents work with students as tutors. Support materials are provided.

Also, Paired Reading Top Up.

Reading Programmes in the English Classrooms Initiative: for this initiative schools are asked to consider the most appropriate reading laboratory eg SRA and to use it outside the learning support context with a First Year JCSP class group. Schools run a six week programme using a reading laboratory resource, aimed at accelerating reading and providing students with a regular opportunity to read at their own level and track their progress.

Keyword Initiative: students are challenged to learn keywords and key spellings across subject areas. Support materials are provided.

Spelling Challenge: this initiative is aimed at subject teachers interested in improving the spelling of key vocabulary offering the students a challenge in order to motivate the learning process. Spelling journals are available for the challenge.

Author in Residence Initiative: this programme would particularly focus on the development of creative writing skills where an author works for a period of time with a group of students. Schools would link with Poetry Ireland Writers in Schools Residencies Scheme.

Storytelling: with an outside storyteller/seanachai who will introduce the art of storytelling.

Drop Everything and Read (DEAR): promoting reading across the whole school or year group. At a set time everyday for a week everyone reads together.

Primary Picture Books: JCSP students link with a primary school class and choose an appropriate picture book to read to the students.

Reading Corners: this initiative can be used to create a classroom reading corner. Bean bags and walkmans could be a feature of the classroom reading corner.

Digital Storytelling and Oral Language Development: Everyone has a story to tell! Digital storytelling revolves around the idea of combining telling stories with any of a variety of multimedia tools. Digital stories are short films made by students using computers and photographs, drawings, sound etc. The short film/video can be created by an individual or group of students.

Book Reviews: students are given book tokens and supported in buying books to be reviewed. There is a Review Booklet which can be used in conjunction with this initiative.

School Based Literacy Project: this will allow schools to come up with their own imaginative response to the literacy difficulties that they are encountering among their students.

Penmanship and Calligraphy: this JCSP initiative focuses on developing the art of penmanship and enhancing the students' written work. The funding for this initiative can be used to purchase calligraphy sets or calligraphy lessons for the students.

Year Book/Newsletter: the JCSP year is always an exciting and

eventful one and what better way to capture all the activities and achievements than in a newsletter or yearbook. The subvention for this JCSP initiative will provide co-ordinators with funds to produce such a newsletter or yearbook.

5. Numeracy Initiatives

Paired Maths Initiative: provides opportunities for schools to develop a framework for linking Fifth Year/Transition Year students with JCSP students, to support the development and enhancement of mathematical and numerical competencies among JCSP students.

Maths Game Initiative: provides opportunities for teachers to source and acquire maths games and/or maths activity packs.

"Make Your Own Opoly" Initiative: using and adapting the "Make Your Own Opoly" starter pack (which is based on the Monopoly board game), teachers can construct and develop their own board games to generate interest in Maths.

Cross Age Paired Maths Initiative: the establishment and implementation of a cross-age paired maths programme.

School Based Numeracy Project: enables schools to acquire and use age-appropriate experiential resources and games in mathematics and numeracy.

Flashmaster Maths Initiative: the Flashmaster is a handheld device that looks like a calculator. It allows students to practise their tables in a fun way. Students can set goals for speed and accuracy at different levels in any of the 4 table areas. Teachers can monitor and customize the Flashmaster to practise particular skills or revisit special problem areas. The Flashmaster can be set to remember the areas that cause difficulty.

General Numeracy Initiative in Arklow Community College

Arklow Community College had a very busy year this year running several exciting initiatives. One in particular that proved extremely enjoyable was General Numeracy, organised by Margaret Brennan. This initiative enables schools to acquire age-appropriate resources and games in mathematics and numeracy and to use these materials to develop creative approaches to the teaching of mathematics and numeracy to JCSP students. A research dimension is included in this initiative, which necessitates pre and post testing.



Students using dominoes



Students from Arklow Community College with their JCSP Numeracy Certificates

- Multiplication Game
- Subtraction Game
- Time Cards
- Fraction Dominoes

Students were awarded a point for each game that they won. At the end of each session the person with the highest score was awarded two points while the runner up was awarded one point on the score board. Apparently it got quite competitive at times! Mid-way through there was a break and a chance for everyone to enjoy some refreshments and a chat.

The students really enjoyed this numeracy initiative. Margaret carried out pre and post-testing which showed that their maths skills had improved while they were having fun. It was great to have parents and grand-fathers involved and this factor added to its success. The students looked forward to participating in the initiative every week and enjoyed the interaction they had with the parents and grandparent who had given their time to help.

To celebrate the end of the initiative a small party was held. Each student received a certificate and a small prize while the winner and runner up received vouchers. This was a very enjoyable experience for all involved and congratulations are due to the teachers, students and parents of Arklow Community College for their enthusiasm and commitment.

Eileen Ellis (JCSP Co-ordinator) points out that Arklow Community College enjoys a very good rapport with parents so one of the first steps was to invite them to become involved in the initiative. Letters were sent out inviting parents and guardians to a meeting in the Parents' Room to discuss taking part in the event. One of the high points was when one student's grand-parent also took up the offer to participate. A training session then took place.

Margaret carried out an audit of the games already available in the school and then drew up a plan of activities. Students played each game in turn, with parents and grand-father in charge of the various games. The games they played included:

- Multiplication Bingo
- Fractions Lotto
- Measure Lotto
- Time Lotto
- Snakes and Ladders
- Maths Quiz on the computer
- Fraction Cards
- Adding Game

JCSP Bodhrán Initiative at St. Paul's Community College

This year Second Year students at St. Paul's Community College were involved in the JCSP Bodhrán Initiative. This initiative brings together Gaeilge, Music, Irish Cultural Studies, Materials



Getting started

Technology Wood and Art. The aim of the initiative is to introduce Junior Certificate students to the bodhrán and to playing along to Irish music. St. Paul's students decided to make their own bodhráns in woodwork. Lessons were arranged for them with musician Eoin Coughlan. This initiative was highly successful and students got a great sense of satisfaction in making their own instrument and learning to play it.

In February just after midterm, Mr. Collins our woodwork teacher told us that we would be starting the Bodhrán Project. He told us we would be making bodhráns and learning how to play them.

When he showed us the kits that had come from a company in Wicklow, we all thought that they didn't look much like bodhráns. In the kit we got a rim, a goatskin, crossbars and tacks and instructions on how to put it together.

First of all we sanded the upper and lower edges of the rim. It took time and a little elbow grease to get these edges smooth and level. This is the toughest part of the project but is worth doing well.



Decorating the bodhráns

We put some masking tape around the top of the outside of the rim, this is where the skin will be attached at a later stage and the glue used to attach the skin does not stick well to varnish. We had to protect the bare wood from the varnish.

We put some masking tape around the top of the outside of the rim, this is where the skin will be attached at a later stage and the glue used to attach the skin does not stick well to varnish. We had to protect the bare wood from the varnish.



Musician Eoin Coughlan with 2nd year students in St. Paul's CC JCSP Library

We soaked the goat skin in water overnight. After removing the skins from the water we let them hang up for ten minutes to allow the excess water to drip off. We measured the rim of the border to see how much elastic we needed to hold the skin on, while it was drying. We pulled the skin onto the frame gently, let it dry and then we tacked on the ribbon. We used stencils to decorate the bodhrán and then coloured it. Our bodhráns were now ready for playing.

Eoin Coughlan came up from the University of Limerick to teach us how to play. We had a great day learning from him and we were able to beat the rhythms to a jig and a reel, the words black and decker black and decker were going through our heads for days. We really enjoyed this project and intend to use our bodhráns a lot this summer as we support Waterford hurling. Up the Déise!!

Bodhrán kits can be ordered from:

John Ellison, 1st Island Distribution Ltd., Corballis, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow, Phone: (0404) 46070

Hilary Cantwell, JCSP Librarian,
St. Paul's Community College, Waterford



Students proudly displaying their bodhráns

Largy College and Clones Library

Book Reading and Maths for Fun Programme

A celebration evening was held for the parents and JCSP students involved in the Book Reading and Maths for Fun Programmes. The programme is very successful in Largy College and has become an annual event over the past three years. It is a joint venture between Largy College and Clones Library.

In the reading programme students, along with a parent, read three books over a six-week period. On completion of each book the student will write a review. The library sources the books specifically with the reading programme in mind. All students read a review of their favourite book on the celebration night.

To encourage parents and students to work together the School and Library produce a workbook. The workbook is full of fun activities for families to enjoy. Activities like find the hidden meaning, word chains, make a fact book and unscramble the word games are included to promote the students interest in reading and help develop confidence and self esteem.

On completion of the six week reading programme the students then commence six weeks of Maths for Fun. The Maths for Fun Programme is set out in a workbook similar to that of the reading programme; each student also receives a folder containing colouring pencils, pritt stick, pentominoes, tangram pieces, a scrapbook and other material necessary for the completion of the programme.



Students and Parents Completing some Maths Puzzles.



Parents solving Maths Puzzles on the Celebration Evening.

The mathematical problems in the programme are presented in a fun and novel manner incorporating numerous games and puzzles that are attainable yet challenging for both students and parents.

Spend a Million Competition

Each student also has the opportunity to spend €1,000,000 in a competition. Here students can spend the money on whatever they like as long as they spend no more or no less than €1,000,000 and keep an account of every cent they spend, all of their spending is recorded and accounted for in the scrap book.

A celebration evening took place in the College on Thursday 6th March; it was an evening of fun, games and stories. Clones Library provided a storyteller, Niall de Búrca, for the evening. Niall brought all attending on a magical journey through the art of storytelling. Certificates of achievement and book vouchers were presented to all students participating.



Principal Mr. O'Connor presenting Gary McKenna and Mary Treanor joint winners in the Spend a Million Competition



Back row. Fiona Hurson, Grainne O'Neill, Mary Treanor, Ciaran Corr, Thomas McElvaney, Nathan Curran, Patrick Brogan, Gary McKenna, Seamus Smith, Caoimhe O'Neill, Michaela Leonard, Patrick Herron.

Front row. Brendan Wilson, Micheal Killen (HSCL), Deirdriú McQuaid (Clones Library), Niall de Búrca (Storyteller), Irene Rooney (JCSP Co ordinator), Eileen Black (JCSP Coordinator), Denis McCarthy (Regional HSCL Coordinator), Daniel Douglas

JCSP Demonstration Library Project



Over 100 JCSP students from 12 JCSP Library Project schools throughout the country, together with their librarians and teachers, gathered in the Curriculum Development Unit, Captain's Road, Crumlin on Tuesday April 29th to take part in the first National Writers Master Classes organised by the JCSP Library Project in conjunction with Poetry Ireland.

The students worked in mixed groups with students from other schools and each group got to work with 3 writers over the course of the day.

Seven well-known writers, poets and dramatists acted as facilitators for the Master Classes. These were as they appear in the photos left to right: Tony Curtis, Larry O'Loughlin, Yvonne Cullen, Pete Mullineaux, Gabriel Fitzmaurice, Enda Wyley, and Siobhan Parkinson.

Some comments from participating librarians:

"The writers inspired and encouraged (the students) to push themselves...by the end of the day they were writing furiously and I was so happy that they got so much from the day".

"Our students were shown how to create a story by building characters and situations, and by using and stretching their imaginations, and by 'thinking outside the box'".

"The students enjoyed the day very much, and teachers commented on their enthusiasm and the boost to their self-esteem back in school".

The Master Classes acted as introductory sessions to the writers and a number of the participating JCSP school librarians have indicated their intention of organising follow-up sessions in their libraries with individual writers in the next academic year.



Coláiste Dhúlaigh



Jobstown Community College



Larkin Community College



Coláiste Chathal Naofa

Writers Master Classes



Students working with author Tony Curtis



Collinstown Park Community College



Killinarden Community School



Coláiste Eoin



Enniscorthy Vocational College



Kylemore College

National In-service Reports

(January 2008–April 2008)

Developing Readers and Reading Spaces in Your School – Modular Day 2

Location: Curriculum Development Unit **Date:** Tuesday 5th February

Developing Readers and Reading Spaces

Following on from the launch of our teacher's resource *Time to Read* and our *Star Reads* campaign designed to get more young people hooked on reading, this modular course was provided over three days at two venues in Dublin and one in Galway. These involved introducing teachers to an array of reading materials now available to meet the wide range of teenage interests and reading levels; magazines, newspapers, graded readers, high-low fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, audio-books, etc. Experienced teachers described how they set up reading corners and spaces, how they motivated students to read and how they rewarded their efforts with celebrations and certificates. Some speakers spoke of their many energetic and creative ways of funding books, e.g. book fairs, donations, fund-raising events, the School Completion Programme, local businesses and organisations and book shops. Most teachers were using JCSP Initiatives to promote reading and fund appropriate reading materials, i.e. Reading Challenge, Paired Reading, Word Millionaire, Readalong, Readathon, Drop Everything and Read (DEAR), Picture Books, and other reading interventions that schools devised themselves.

Librarians also contributed valuable insight into motivating students and choosing individual reading material to match student interests and reading levels. They also described the events and activities they organised to entice students into the library and to emphasise the importance of oral language and reading for pleasure, i.e. storytelling, author visits, clowns, drama and music workshops, guitar clubs, book clubs, readings, exhibitions, writers in residence, and even some 'non-human' visitors from Animal Magic.

Our first day was held in the library in **Larkin Community College** in Dublin's inner city and this afforded participants the chance to look at resources in an ideal setting. The speakers included Eileen Holian, the JCSP librarian, who described how she builds relationships with her 'readers' and even assigns reading homework. Eamonn White, Co-ordinator at Riversdale Community College in Blanchardstown and Paula Moran, Co-ordinator at Mercy Secondary School, Coolock described the reading initiatives they have implemented successfully in their schools, with DEAR being particularly successful as a

whole school initiative. Anna Bonner also outlined the Writers in Schools Schemes that Poetry Ireland fund and that are available to all schools.

In **Galway** the day began with Mairead Duggan, JCSP librarian at Galway Community College, who recommended books by popular writers Eoin Colfer, Philip Pullman, Darren Shan, Jacqueline Wilson and Roald Dahl. Just to whet our appetite, Mairead read to us from the first book of the Darren Shan series and demonstrated how we can all still enjoy someone reading to us. She also spoke about the challenges of encouraging boys to continue reading at second level and shared this insightful quote with us:

"A good book for a boy is one that takes him to places he has never imagined and shows him things that dazzle his mind. A good book stands firm in the face of the stereotypes that society presses on him drawing out the emotional experience of his humanity which he might otherwise deny and repress. A good book is a rollicking good yarn that tweaks his sense of adventure and absorbs him so completely that he battles alongside the hero and rejoices in the final victory as if it was his own."

– James Maloney

Marian Spellman, Co-ordinator at Presentation College, Athenry described her innovative and tireless efforts to fund a stock of books in her school while Statia Somers, RDO and formerly Co-ordinator at Liberties College in Dublin described a timetabled reading programme for first and second year students and displayed samples of the resources.

At the **Curriculum Development Unit** in Crumlin, two JCSP librarians, Karen O'Shea from Jobstown Community College and Helen McMahon from Killinarden Community School, gave us lots of ideas for creating attractive, enticing reading spaces and engaging students in the process so they feel ownership of these spaces. Denise O'Flanagan, RDO and former Co-ordinator described how a reading corner was created in Firhouse Community College and how children from a local primary school visited to participate in paired reading with JCSP students acting as tutors. Shay Quinn, Co-ordinator at Moyle Park College, Clondalkin described his reading corner, his recording system for the books and the various reading initiatives that help motivate the

boys to keep reading over the three years of the junior cycle. Finally the senior librarian from the Schools Section of Dublin City Libraries, Rosemary Hetherington, described the role of the public library in providing material for all young people and recommended a wide range of non-fiction series and titles.

Many thanks to all the above speakers who so generously shared their experiences, enthusiasm, ideas and book lists with other colleagues. In this term we hope to bring this popular in-service to more venues around the country and look forward to hearing what other teachers and schools are doing to promote reading.

Check out the following websites for more information and ideas:

www.storytellersofireland.org - directory of storytellers in all regions.

www.altents.ie - site with links to writers, musicians, entertainers, etc.

www.teenreads.com - student reviews.

www.cool-reads.co.uk - student reviews.

www.childrensbooks.ie - book reviews, book events and author information.

www.poetryireland.ie - application forms for Writers in School schemes.



Making Sense of Maths and Numeracy at Junior Cycle – Modular Day 2

Location: Regency Hotel

Date: Thursday 7th February

This in-service identified and described a range of strategies and approaches that can be employed with junior cycle students to support the development of enhanced mathematical and numerical understanding. Jillian Byrne, Abbey Community College and Eimear Forde, St. Aidan's Community College made presentations on successful numeracy projects that were

undertaken in their schools. Owen McConway, Mathematics Support Service, provided many valuable insights into the marking schemes of Junior Certificate Mathematics examinations. A materials exhibition was organised as part of this in-service.

Using Digital Images to Tell a Story

Location: Digital Hub Dublin

Date: 19th February 2008

Digital storytelling involves telling stories with a variety of multimedia tools. These short 'films' are made using computers, digital cameras, captions, voice over narration, sound effects, music etc.

This year we held two in-service days to introduce teachers from all subject areas to Photo Story 3. This is a free application

from Microsoft and with it you can use your digital photos to tell a story or create an exciting animated slide show or film. The first day was facilitated by Paul McDonnell (ICT Advisor, Cork) with the support of Fintan Keating the ICT Advisor at Dublin West Education Centre in Tallaght. A second day was hosted by the Digital Hub, in Dublin's inner city and facilitated



by Clifford Brown with support from Siobhan Clancy. Each session resulted in some very impressive and amusing short films and the teachers really enjoyed creating them!

Quote of the day at Dublin West Education Centre

This would be useful in teaching my subject (Metalwork and Engineering) and easy to use for both me and my students and its freely available.

Quote of the day at the Digital Hub

Keep this good work going! A very good teacher; good pace for all levels; nice facilities and lunch!

Useful Websites:

Photo Story 3 can be downloaded for free at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digital-photography/photostory/default.msp>



Check out the following websites for more information about digital storytelling:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/tellinglives/>

<http://www.storycenter.org/principles.html>

<http://www.coe.uh.edu/digital-storytelling/gettingstarted.htm>

<http://electronicportfolios.com/digistory/>

Next term we aim to continue developing teachers' skills by offering training in creating comic strips or graphic books. Comic strips are a much underrated literary form and young people love them so they could be the ideal tool to engage students and promote literacy. There are numerous comic strip generators available on the web but most were not designed specifically for educational purposes. ToonDoo is ideal to use with students and it's a free Web 2.0 software application that enables users to create two or three panel cartoons quickly with lots of characters, backgrounds and speech bubbles. It's great fun and very simple to use.



All you have to do is register at **www.toondoo.com**

Check out the following websites for more advanced comic book software:

Comic Creator at **<http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/comic>**

Comic Life at **<http://www.plasq.com/downloads>** for a free 30-day trial.

Many thanks to all who supported us in providing these in-service days, especially the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE) and the Digital Hub.

Outdoor Activities and Cross-Curricular Links

Location: Donegal Education Centre

Date: Wednesday 20th February

This in-service identified many of the benefits and successes achieved by developing and establishing outdoor activities and cross curricular approaches to support teaching and learning.

Very interesting and engaging presentations were provided by Elizabeth Dickson and Catherine Shallow, Carndonagh Community School and by Mairead Holmes, St. Columba's College.

Gaeilge & JCSP

Venue: Limerick Education Centre

Date: 26th February

The aim of the in-service was to look at strategies and techniques in the teaching of Gaeilge, to share resources and best practice.

Thug Carmel Nic Eoin ón Seirbhís Tacaíochta an Dara Leibhéal, Gaeilge, inchur ar na háiseanna úsáideacha atá ar fáil mar tacaíocht don Ghaeilge. Luaigh sí Foras na Gaeilge agus Carroll Education mar foinsí cabhracha.

Bhí díospóireacht taitneamach, sláintiúil ar an dúshlán atá ann do mhúinteoirí Ghaeilge agus do scoláirí JCSP ó thaobh caighdeán na Gaeilge. 'Sé an cheist a bhí á phlé ná: "Conas is

féidir an caighdeán a árdú ionas go mbeadh scoláirí JCSP in ann Gnáthleibhéal a dhéanamh?"'

Rinne triúr múinteoir cur i láthair ar an lá: Angela Shealy, Coláiste Chraoibhinn, Fermoy, Caitriona Ní Chonchúir agus Aoife Ní Chionnfhaoiligh, beirt ó Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom. Tá sé soiléar go bhfuil na múinteoirí seo ag obair go díograiseach ar son scoláirí an JCSP agus tugadh sár-mholadh dóibh san mheasúnú ar an in-seribhís.

Introduction to the Programme for New Schools

Location: Curriculum Development Unit

Date: Wednesday 21st May

Principals and coordinators, from the cohort of new schools that are joining the Programme in September 2008, attended this in-service in the Curriculum Development Unit. An overview of the Programme was provided. Mr. Jim Windsor Mc Glynn, Banagher College, described the role of the JCSP coordinator. Mr. Thomas Tyrrell, principal of Abbey Community College and Ms. Blathnaidh Colhoun, principal, Loreto Secondary School, Crumlin made presentations on the important role that a principal plays in supporting the introduction, implementation and nurturing of the Programme in a school.



Mr. Jim Windsor McGlynn, Bangor College

JCSP Demonstration Library Project Launches

Four new JCSP Demonstration Library Project libraries were officially launched this year.

Enniscorthy Vocational College

John Brown T.D. welcomed the first JCSP Library Project library to Co. Wexford when he officially launched the new library in **Enniscorthy Vocational College**. The launch marked the culmination of a week-long series of library-based activities and events organised by school librarian Eadaoin Quinn. Guests at the event were entertained by the very talented school orchestra and refreshments were provided by the Home Economics Department. JCSP students were presented with prizes for their wonderful school library card designs.



Ryan Tubridy with Kathleen Moran, Senior Project Librarian and Dympna Kiernan, School Librarian



CBS Secondary School, James's St.

Ryan Tubridy, RTÉ presenter with a lust for literature, did the honours in **CBS Secondary School, James's St., Dublin**, where he enthralled the audience with his wit and humour – and of course his obvious love of books and reading. He was joined on the occasion by Mary Upton T.D. chairperson of the School Board of Management. The occasion was co-ordinated by school librarian, Dympna Kiernan, ably assisted by her student Library Assistants who ensured that everything ran smoothly on the day.



Trinity Comprehensive's budding poets with Dermot Bolger



Dermot Bolger cuts the ribbon officially opening the Library



Dermot reading to the audience in Trinity Comprehensive

Trinity Comprehensive School, Ballymun

Well-known Dublin author, playwright and poet, Dermot Bolger cut the ribbon on the new JCSP Library Project library in **Trinity Comprehensive School, Ballymun**, Dublin. Dermot spoke of the value of libraries and of the pleasure and enjoyment that the students would get from this marvellous new resource. Students from the school recited poems and raps that they had written – much to the delight of everyone in attendance. School librarian, Sinéad Cunningham, spoke of how positively the library has been received in the school and of her plans for development in the coming years.

St. Kevin's Community College, Clondalkin

The CEO of County Dublin VEC, Mr. Pat O'Connor, officially welcomed the new library and librarian to **St. Kevin's Community College, Clondalkin**, Dublin. The library's contribution to enhancing the educational experience of all students in the school, and JCSP students in particular, was acknowledged. The school choir put on a wonderful performance for the staff, students and invited guests. Chairperson of the School Board of Management, Mr. Jim Lavelle, cut the ribbon on the new state-of-the-art library and school librarian Dearbhail O'Connor led all guests on a tour of the new facility.



Mr Jim Lavelle, cutting the ribbon to launch St. Kevin's Community College JCSP Library



St. Kevins Community College

Trinity Wednesday Rap

*I remember in the days sitting in the blocks
all the lads smoking rocks
now as we're gettin older
we're getting bolder
getting chased, getting maced
less police, all the terrorists being released
all my friends being torn apart
and babies being born in the park
cause their mothers only thirteen
babies left on the cold ground
just waiting to be found
lads robbing bikes
starting fights
this is M-O-S, speaking from the west
so here I go, with the flow
car chases
people being racist
bells ringing
people killing
the whole world filling of bad memories
and damn felonies
what goes up must come down
so don't be no clown
if you're taking stuff just to be high
your're going to die
so you might as will say goodbye
lads showing off, driving the fast cars
leaving girls with emotional scars
girls' having one night stands
but it was never planned
see, one mistake and she's got a kid
thinking it's the worst thing she ever did
even though he has a bundle of joy
he doesn't really care
it's not really fair
yet they're always going for the bad guy
even all they do is say goodbye
she could have done better
could't have done worse
but in the end it's her own made curse
this is just life
people dying by knives
see, I've an honest job
I've no need to rob
don't do wrong, just do right
then you should be alright
well that's all I have to say
I hope it's better here today*

Mark O'Sullivan

New JCSP Libraries Announced

Below is the text of a press release issued by the Department of Education and Science announcing the next 10 schools to join the JCSP Demonstration Library Project.

07 July, 2008 – Minister O’Keeffe extends Demonstration Library Project to 10 more second level schools under DEIS

Minister for Education and Science, Batt O’Keeffe, T.D. announced the extension of the Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP) Demonstration Library Project for ten more post primary schools as part of the DEIS Action Plan (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools). There are now 31 second level schools that have benefited from this initiative. The Demonstration Library Project began in 2001 as part of the Department of Education and Science Early Literacy Initiative to provide literacy and numeracy support for students.

Introduced in 1996, the JCSP is aimed at providing support for Junior Certificate students who are experiencing difficulty or who may be at risk of leaving school early.

Announcing the extension of the Demonstration Library Project, Minister O’Keeffe said “this initiative is just one in a broad range of supports this Government has introduced to provide additional supports for children who are at risk of leaving school early. These students need extra help to make the most of the opportunities available to them in school.”

The JCSP Demonstration Library project puts in place high quality, fully stocked and equipped modern libraries and provides each with a professional librarian. As part of the induction programme into the Project each school receives funding, professional development and guidance in the setting up of a school library.

Minister O’Keeffe went on to say “these are not ordinary school libraries, they are creative, active learning centres which aim to stimulate interest in the student. The JCSP Libraries are welcoming, comfortable, exciting and dynamic learning spaces and are stocked with an exciting collection



Storyteller Niall de Búrca with students in the JCSP Library in Mount Carmel Secondary School

of carefully chosen books and other resources designed to entice and engage the most reluctant teenager. While prioritising literacy development of JCSP students, the libraries also provide a service to the whole school including well stocked teacher resource sections.”

The Librarians receive specialised literacy training from the JCSP support service focusing on literacy development at second level and the JCSP Literacy and Numeracy Strategy. The libraries facilitate the implementation of the JCSP Literacy and Numeracy Strategy with Reading Challenges, Word Millionaire, Storytelling, JCSP Readalong, JCSP Make A Book Exhibition, Family Literacy Programmes, Clubs, Numeracy Programmes and authors’ visits and residencies as well as library and information skills training. They also provide opportunities for intercultural showcasing, performance space, creative writing and drama.

Ten extra schools are now joining the Demonstration Library Project and will benefit from quality school libraries staffed by professionally qualified librarians who will have professional research support.

Last year almost 9,500 students benefited from these enhanced supports.

List of schools

| SCHOOL NAME: | ADDRESS: |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 St. Kevin’s College | Crumlin |
| 2 Plunket College | Whitehall |
| 3 St. Enda’s Community School | Limerick |
| 4 Riversdale Community College | Blanchardstown |
| 5 Marino College | Fairview |
| 6 Beaufort College | Navan |
| 7 Patrician College | Finglas |
| 8 St. Aidan’s Community School | Tallaght |
| 9 St. Paul’s CBS | North Brunswick St. |
| 10 Wexford Vocational School | Wexford |



Students from Class Bríd in Mount Carmel Secondary School Kings Inn Street with their Make A Book exhibit

JCSP Make A Book 2008



Student Exhibits



JCSP Make A



A Book 2008



JCSP Make A Book 2008



Junior Certificate School Programme

Make A Book 2008

Make A Book 2008 was held in two venues: City Council Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin and Millennium Hall, City Hall, Cork. This is the 10th Make A Book exhibition and the creative work it supports in schools continues to go from strength to strength. The exhibition brings together a number of strands of the JCSP: it offers support for students' literacy by providing an audience for their writing; it celebrates student's work in public; and it brings teachers together to work in a cross-curricular way, thus aiding the development of a team approach to JCSP.

This year saw an increase in the number of participating schools and students: 77 schools visited the Dublin exhibition in the Civic Offices, Wood Quay and 39 Schools attended the Cork exhibition in Millennium Hall, City Hall. Altogether 1,821 students and 400 teachers participated in the project.

The Dublin exhibition was opened by Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Ann Carter, who addressed the students, cut the ribbon and then viewed the exhibition with students. In Cork a

number of celebrities visited the Millennium Hall, Jimmy Barry Murphy and Donál O'Grady visited and spoke to the students who were thrilled to get their photos taken with their sporting heroes.

Groups were welcomed to the exhibition and while their teacher registered the group students were given a quiz sheet and a Make A Book pen. The aim of the quiz was to focus the students' attention on particular exhibits at different locations, to get them to visit the full exhibition and to look carefully at the books.

In total 997 quizzes were returned. Schools that participated in the quiz have received book tokens as prizes. In past years the book tokens have enabled teachers to bring a group of students to a local bookshop to choose and purchase their books.

Schools were offered a photo of the group with their exhibit and individual students had Polaroid photos taken. On leaving, the students were given refreshments and the teachers collected certificates for their students.



The Deputy Lord Mayor, Anne Carter, opened the Dublin exhibition



St. Dominic's Ballyfermot



Synge Street students visited the exhibition this year, with their principal Mr Michael Minnock



Students enjoying a read



Margaret Aylward Community College



Enniscorthy Community College

Every possible topic of interest to young people was explored through a tremendous range of books, texts, videos and digital stories accompanied by exciting, imaginative displays. This year's range of books varied from teacher-led whole class projects on Local Studies, History, Geography, Irish and CSPE, to creative writing and personal writing on hobbies, family and cultural topics.

The feedback from the teachers, principals and inspectors who visited the exhibition was overwhelmingly positive and focused on the affirmation the students got from seeing their work displayed, getting their photo taken and having their work celebrated publicly.

Digital stories were submitted by 3 schools: Central Remedial Clinic, Ballinode College Sligo and Kylemore College. These were on display on a TV during the course of the exhibition.

The project is organised by the Support Service with the assistance of the Curriculum Development Unit. A big thank you to all the schools that participated in Make A Book 2008. The books and exhibits have been returned to schools. A compilation of student writing can be read in the 2008 Make A Book Magazine.

Close-up On...

The "Close-up on..." section in our Newsletter provides a forum to showcase, acknowledge and highlight some of the range of JCSP activities and achievements in one particular school setting. As promised the second in our series continues with a 'look at' Carrick on Shannon Community School.

Principal: Mr Joseph Flynn

JCSP Coordinator: Peter Nyland

JCSP IT Team Teacher: Joe Bambrick

JCSP... The Experience in Carrick on Shannon Community School

Inclusive Education is the byword in Carrick on Shannon Community School. Students participating in the Junior Certificate School Programme are spread across a number of classes and while previously the JCSP was offered to a small group of special needs students, it is now offered to students



who need support for a variety of reasons and from a range of ethnic minorities including Irish minority groups.

The Principal quotes: "Innovative teaching methods such as team teaching, greater interaction between teachers and students, allied to the use of a profiling system are all hallmarks of the programme."

The JCSP Coordinator says: "The JCSP can be likened to a boomerang. If one puts in a good effort, the return can be very strong! Present students will tell you the enormous satisfaction they get from completing a project, receiving a voucher for improvement and endeavour, or indeed a positive remark for homework well done."

Literacy Programmes

Paired Reading

Mr. Nyland & Miss Brady coordinate the Paired Reading initiative. This involves students from the FETAC Level 5 Child Care course helping students read a series of books once a week



FETAC Students receive their certificates for participating as Paired Reading Tutors



Students engaged in Paired Reading



Relaxing at Make A Book

over an eight to ten week period. Shared reading brings about very positive learning outcomes. Students' reading speed and accuracy improves, and the fear of reading diminishes.

Make A Book

For this year's exhibition the students undertook Operation Transformation. The plan was to get fit in six weeks. Guided by Mr. Bambrick, Mr. Nyland, Miss Leahy & Miss Brady the students undertook a fitness programme. They took 2 bleep tests, 6 weeks apart and in-between were involved in running, walking games, dancing and more. The students typed all about their experiences, successes failures and feelings during the project and printed them in book form which was on display over a 3 day period to the public at the offices of Dublin City Council in Wood Quay. The students were invited to the launch of this exhibition. Aspects of the programme were recorded on DVD for posterity.

The Reading Challenge

A few years ago Mrs. Mairead O'Beirne received in-service within both literacy and numeracy modules of JCSP. One initiative she was impressed with was the Reading Challenge. It has now become a regular event in Carrick.

Readalong

Readalong in Carrick is carried out in the language lab, where a tape is played and students read the text whilst listening to the tape through headphones.

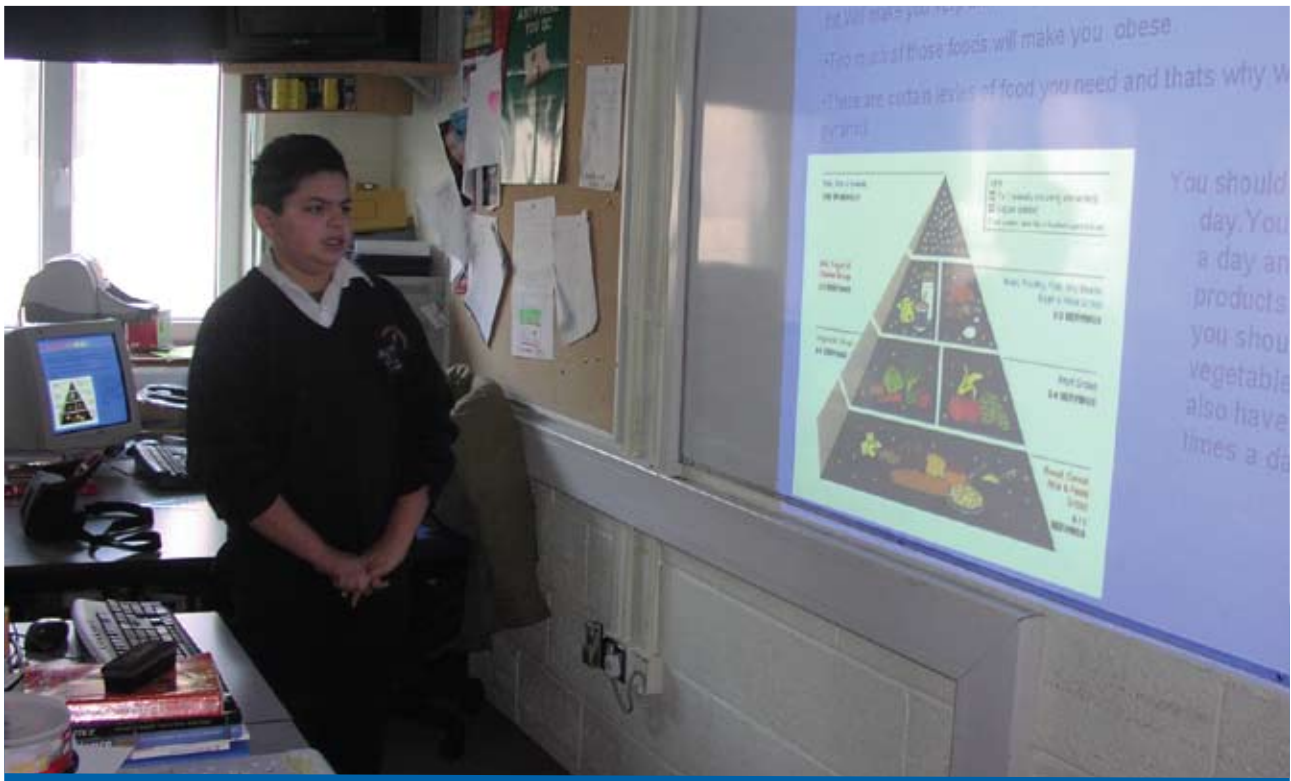
Social Development

Student Presentation Skills

As part of their project work this year students had to learn to research a topic and make a presentation to their fellow students. This involved learning to use Power Point and the data projector. Although it was nerve wracking at first the students gained great confidence by presenting their finished projects and talking through them before their classmates.

Trips and Outdoor Education

One of the core areas of the JCSP programme is the development of social skills and confidence in the student, as well as academic development. Throughout the three-year programme, the students are encouraged to participate in many activities and outings that are organised by their teachers and funded by the school.



Using PowerPoint to present projects to fellow classmates



Awarding of JCSP Certificates

The idea of these activities and school trips is to allow the student to explore a topic on their curriculum for themselves. This helps to instil a greater knowledge of a subject matter in their minds and also when the topic is later discussed or revised in class, the student is able to link it to a concrete experience.



Carrick students learning to abseil



Some of these outings have included:

- A weekend trip to Achill Adventure Centre where the students participated in many outdoor activities such as surfing, kayaking, archery, orienteering, and abseiling.
- A trip to Strokestown House and Famine Museum: this was to give the students some insight into the past, in particular the landlord system and the great famine of the 1840's, which correlates to the content of their History course.
- A tour of the Arigna Coal Mines: this outing helped the students understand the working of a mine and the extraction of a natural resource. This was particularly helpful to their understanding of resources in geography.
- Bowling and Karting.

National & School Winners

Míle buíochas do na múinteoirí agus scoláirí go léir a ghlac páirt sa chomórtas Cárta Phoist an téarma seo chaite. Bhí caighdeán an-ard ann agus bhí sé an-deacair na buaiteoirí a roghnú. Comhghairdeas do na daoine a roghnaíodh.

A very big thank you to the students and teachers, that participated in the JCSP Comórtas Cárta Phoist. It was very apparent that a lot of time and effort was invested to produce the many outstanding entries that were received. It was a very difficult task to choose the 'Overall Winners' and the 'Best in School Winners'. The standard of the entries were very high, with imaginative slogans and art work. After a lot of debating the following were selected:

National Winners:

- Alina Petrasca**, Larkin Community College, Cathal Brugha Street, Dublin
- Robert Courtney**, Larkin Community College, Cathal Brugha Street, Dublin
- Paul Ogelsby**, Larkin Community College, Cathal Brugha Street, Dublin
- Danny O'Brien**, St. Kevin's School, Infirmary Road, Cork
- William O'Mahony**, Colaiste Árd Álainn, Glanmire, Co. Cork
- Zoe Ní Chonail**, St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork
- Helen Curtis**, Bridgetown Vocational College, Co. Wexford
- Cherene Ní Fhoghlú**, Méanscoil San Nioclás, Co. Phort Láirge
- Eric Finnegan**, Jobstown Community College, Tallaght, Dublin

School Winners:

- Caoimhín Ó Cionnfhaolaidh**, Méanscoil San Nioclás, Co. Phort Láirge
- Danny O'Neill**, Coláiste Árd Álainn, St. Stephen's Hospital, Glanmire, Co. Cork
- Conor Howard**, Coláiste Eoin, Crumlin, Dublin
- Laura Hand**, Jobstown Community College, Tallaght, Dublin
- Shauna Walsh**, Presentation Secondary School, Waterford
- Natalie Kellis**, Presentation Secondary School, Waterford
- Kelsey Doyle**, Marino College, Dublin 3
- Dónall Ó Rainne**, Scoil Chumsitheach Chiartain, Conemara, Co. Galway
- Kevin Caffrey**, Larkin Community College, Cathal Brugha Street, Dublin
- Shane Grimes**, St. Kevin's School, Infirmary Road, Cork
- Leanne Kane**, Collinstown Park Community College, Clondalkin, Dublin
- Pilib Mac Carthaigh**, St. Aidan's Community College, Cork
- David Lettis**, Rosary College, Crumlin, Dublin
- Emma Sheridan**, St. Thomas' Community College, Bray, Co. Wicklow
- Alice Gaffney**, Bridgetown Vocational College, Co. Wexford
- Craig Wright**, Bridgetown Vocational College, Co. Wexford
- Oliver White**, Coláiste Pobail Naomh Mhuire, Main Street, Buttevant, Co. Cork
- Aindriú Ó hAnnagáin**, Coláiste Phobail Phádraig Naofa, Limerick Road, Nass, Co. Kildare
- Lauren Campbell**, Balbriggan Community College, Pine Ridge, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin

Competition Announced

Inviting all students to design a poster
for DEAR (Drop Everything And Read)

Task: To promote the reading initiative DEAR

Design your poster on an A4 page

Closing date: November 28th 2008

All entries to:

JCSP Support Service, DEAR Poster Competition,

Curriculum Development Unit,

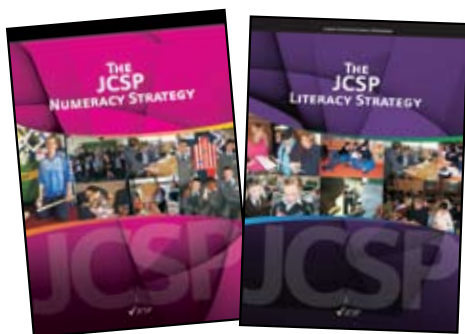
Captain's Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12.

Don't forget to put your name, class and school on the back of your entry

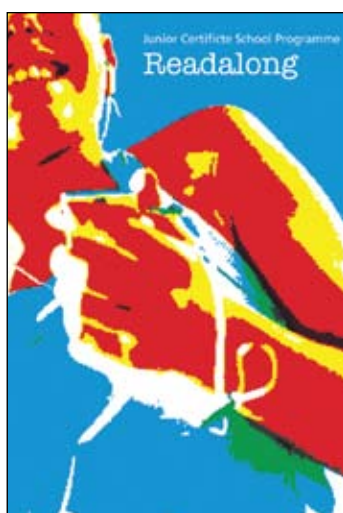
New Materials

New resources are just coming on stream for JCSP schools to support your school development planning process in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy. These resources, developed in consultation with School Development Planning, will support your school in reviewing current provision in literacy and numeracy while offering lots of ideas, resources and templates to help your planning, particularly if you are about to embark on writing your 3 year DEIS plan.

An information leaflet outlining the JCSP Literacy Strategy is now available for teachers. This may be helpful if you are planning a school wide literacy in-service or would just like to get an overview of the strategy. There will also be one available shortly for the JCSP numeracy strategy.



- Literacy Strategy Information Booklet
- Numeracy Strategy Information Booklet
- A Resource Pack for Developing a School Literacy Plan
- A Resource Pack for Developing a School Numeracy Plan



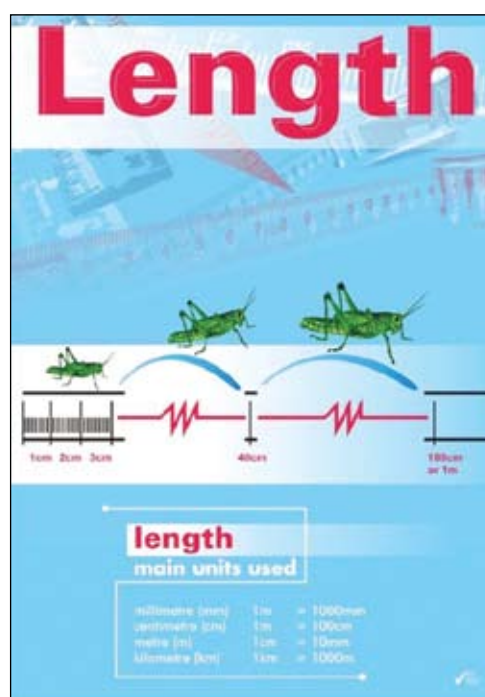
Readalong Guidelines:

The Readalong Initiative was one of the first of the literacy initiatives in the JCSP and has proved consistently popular with teachers and coordinators. Readalong is a form of supported reading in which students wear headphones and listen to a recorded book while reading along with the

text. In the last few years the technology has changed considerably from cassette tapes to CDs, and now to downloading audio-books onto MP3 players. New guidelines are available that outline various ways in which teachers organise the Readalong sessions, choose the equipment and audio books and also give suggestions for follow up work both written and oral.

To accompany the Guidelines there are also new student Readalong Certificates and Post-its for recommending favourite reads.

New Maths Poster 'Length'



JCSP Student Profiling System:

The Co-ordinators folder is now ready. This completes the revamp of the Student System Profile Handbook that

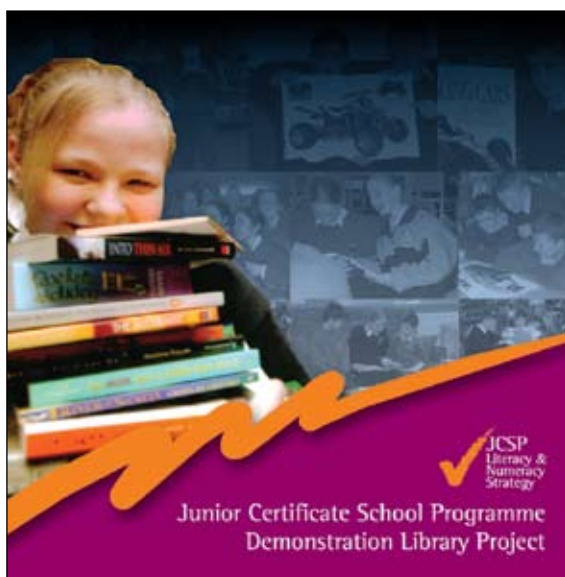


commenced last summer. Having the statements and the information for co-ordinators in a loose leaf folder means that additions to the three folders can be easily made. Both the folder and the box holder for all three folders is currently being sent to schools.



Schools are also receiving a pack of all Subject Profile Handbooks.

JCSP Demonstration Library Project Brochure:



Initiative Evaluation Reports:

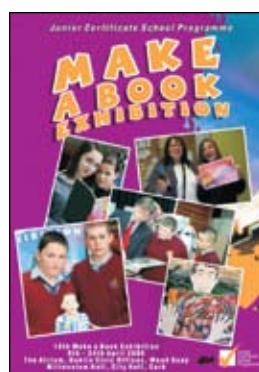
Each of these three evaluation reports provide insight on the pre and post testing used by schools and their findings as a result of engaging with each of the particular initiatives.

The JCSP Paired Maths Initiative Report is based on the findings of the schools that participated in the initiative in 2006. It is an intervention that seeks to investigate the effectiveness of paired-work and peer-tutoring in supporting the development of enhanced understanding in maths and numeracy among students in the JCSP Programme. The paired-maths template is multifaceted, highly flexible and versatile. It offers a range of options to schools to plan, structure and design their specific and unique paired-maths programme.



The JCSP General Numeracy Initiative, Evaluation Report is based on the findings of the 14 schools that participated in the initiative in 2006. The initiative is an intervention that seeks to investigate the effectiveness of child-centred, experiential and constructivist approaches and resources in supporting the development of enhanced mathematical and numerical understanding among students in the programme.

Who Wants to be a Word Millionaire Initiative Report is based on the findings from the schools that participated in 2006. It is a short-term reading intervention that challenges a class or a group of students to engage in recreational reading and to collectively read over one million words within a reasonable timeframe, usually consisting of six weeks.



Make A Book Magazine

Make sure you get your copies of the Make A Book Magazine for any students that were involved this year. It will give you lots of ideas for what you might do next year with your JCSP students.

Materials Technology Wood, Students' Workbook, Part 2

Séan Geasley, Nagle Community College

The MTW Student Workbook Part 2 has been developed to extend and compliment the existing MTW Student Workbook Part 1. Workbook 2 uses the same approach and layout as the original publication. Two new MTW statements (Theory 2 and Theory 3) have been developed to correspond with this additional theory material.



Certificates as Gaeilge

The certificates that are available as Gaeilge have been added to over the summer holidays.

Bronze, Silver and Gold Certificates are available as Gaeilge. Also available is a General Certificate of Achievement.



Gaeilge Vocabulary Cards are available again.

The cards are divided into 5 categories: Siopaí, An Scoil, Timpeall na h-Aíte, agus Cad tá ar Siúl. Each has the printed word in Irish and English and a visual image of the word.



Rap Workshops

St Kevin's Community College

To celebrate the opening of the new JCSP school library, St Kevin's Community College organised a series of activities in the library for students to participate in.

One of these activities was a rap workshop. All of the first year classes and two classes of second years participated in the rap workshops.

Glen Boyne is a Tallaght-based rapper who often does rap workshops with schools and libraries. He starts each session by getting students to introduce themselves and finding out their hobbies and interests. He then does a brainstorming of ideas, asking students what are the main themes in songs by

their favourite rapper such as Eminem, 50 Cent and Snoop Doggy Dogg. The group then decide together on what the theme of their rap song should be. Using this theme, the class then come up with some rhyming words that are linked to this theme. Students then use these rhyming words to create their own rap song. At the end of the session, students can either perform their own rap song if they want, otherwise it is performed by Glen. He also performs a couple of his own rap songs. As you can see from the photos, some students were really enthusiastic about writing their own rap songs and produced some wonderful rhymes.



Summer Celebrations in Schools

The last term saw a number of schools have celebrations to present JCSP Final Profiles to Third Year students before wishing them every success with their Junior Certificate exams. First and Second Year students received awards and certificates for participating in a number of literacy, numeracy and cross-curricular initiatives. The summer celebration is a traditional end to the year for students participating in the JCSP and is attended by teachers, parents, grand-parents, siblings and even aunts and uncles. Below is a sample of the many summer celebrations held throughout the country.

June saw the celebration of JCSP final profiling in the **Central Remedial Clinic** as Ciara Duff, Ashleen Flynn, Georgina Geoghegan, Nicole Halligan, Gary Maguire, Conor Nolan, Roger Doyle and Anthony Gaffney were presented with their Final Profiles. Ann Jackson, Principal and Jerry Pierce, JCSP Co-ordinator along with their teachers, parents, grandparents and indeed aunts and uncles joined them in their celebrations. The projects that they had been involved in over the year were on display including Charlie, the centre-piece of their Make A Book exhibition.



Oaklands Community Collage, Edenderry

End of year celebrations in Oaklands Community College, Edenderry, with Principal Michael Dineen and JCSP Co-ordinator Maureen Spain and the team of teachers. Students were presented with their final profiles along with their certificates for participation in the Paired Reading Initiative.



Oaklands Community College, Edenderry



Oaklands Community College, Edenderry

St David's, Artane

Padraic Kavanagh, Principal and Martin McCarthy, JCSP Co-ordinator at the celebration of the JCSP Final Profiles in St David's, Artane, Dublin.



St. Davids CBS, Artane



St. Davids CBS, Artane

St Michael's, Finglas

Second year students from St Michael's in Finglas receiving their statement awards at their end of year celebrations in May. Principal, John Barry, Deputy, Mary Kenny and JCSP Co-ordinator Nuala Finn presented the awards following a beautiful musical presentation by the students that was well attended by their teachers.



St. Michael's Finglas



St. Michael's Finglas



St. Michael's Finglas

St Joseph's, Navan

First, Second and Third Year students in St. Joseph's Secondary School, Navan, had their end of year JCSP Celebration on Monday May 19th 2008. First and Second Years took responsibility for organising the celebration, planning the menu, designing the invitations, sending the invitations, planning the programme for the celebration and dividing up the tasks. Invited guests to the celebration included teachers, principal, deputy principal, Dorothy Butterly, JCSP RDO, Christine Nestor from the School Completion Programme and Helen Blackhurst who did a creative writing programme with the students. Students also participated in the English Pen-pal initiatives where they linked with the students from Presentation Secondary School, Warrenmount, Dublin.

The Second Year students prepared the food and decorated the room. Students were presented with certificates for various initiatives that they had participated in during the year.



The Principal Mr. Vincent Donovan presented Third Years with their Final Profiles



Helen Blackhurst presented the students with Certificates of Achievement for participating in the Creative Writing Programme



Mrs. Mary Mulligan, Deputy Principal, presented certificates to students who took part in the Reading Challenge Initiative

Library Activities

Author Mary Arrigan Visits St. Paul's Community College

First year students invited Mary Arrigan to visit their school after reading *Chocolate Moon*. They prepared questions to ask her about writing. They also decided that after the interview they would like to try to write a story with her – *The Great Escape*.

The Great Escape

One day there was a little boy out on his bike when his mum called him in and said "would you ever go down to the shops on your bike for a pint of milk, your little sister is screaming for her bottle." So off he went on his bike but there were two robbers robbing the shop. The little boy ran into one of the robbers and the robber's mask came off. The robber dragged the little boy over to the van and threw him into the back of it and drove off up the mountains.

They put him in a room in the back of a house. The little boy looked around the room, he went over to the window but it was locked. Then he noticed that the wood around the glass was rotten. He started picking at the wood with his fingers until the glass pane was loose. He took out the glass and climbed through the window quietly. He started running toward the trees away from the road.

A short while later the robbers went into the room to check on the boy. When they saw that he was gone they ran out of the house. One robber got into the van and the other ran in the direction of the forest. The little boy could hear someone coming after him. He tried to run quickly but he tripped over a stick and hurt his ankle. He got up and hid in the bushes. He could hear the robber shouting "I am going to get you."



From L to R: Jamie Doyle, Batrice McLaurance, Ross Stacey, Mary Arrigan, Tara O'Neill, Kathleen Smith, Adam Lynch, Dean Dunphy. April 15, 2008

The boy was afraid. The robber stopped by the bush then but kept going. When it was safe the boy turned towards the road and limped out into the middle of it. He started walking when suddenly out of nowhere he saw headlights coming towards him, he waved it down.

It was the van – it was too late to hide, he had been seen. The robber put him in the back of the van and started driving. After half an hour, the van slowed down, it seemed to stop. The boy heard voices "Can I see your tax and insurance, please." The little boy thought it must be the Garda. He started stamping his feet, he made a fierce racket in the back of the van. The Garda asked the robber what was that noise. The robber told him it was a sheep. The boy continued to kick at the door, until the Garda asked the robber to open the back of the van. He had no choice he opened the door and the little boy was saved and the robber was arrested.

Class 1S, Hilary Cantwell, JCSP Librarian

Interview by First Year Students, April 15, 2008

Batrice: How long did it take you to write the book?

Mary: 3 weeks and then I sent it to my editor. We then worked on corrections and rewriting for about 7 months. The book took 9 months to get into the shops.

Tara: Why isn't there any illustrations in the book?

Mary: I didn't think that the book needed pictures. I wanted the reader to make the pictures in their head.

Ross: Where do you get your ideas from?

Mary: This idea for this book came from my dad who had Alzheimers. I didn't want the book to be about my dad so I



wrote the story about a granny having Alzheimers and the effect it had on her grandson.

Tara: Why is it called *Chocolate Moon*?

Mary: I used to eat white chocolate buttons when I was small and I thought they looked like a chocolate moon.

Kathleen: What made you decide to become an author?

Mary: I went to Art College so I started off being an artist. I worked as an Art Teacher in a secondary school. When I had children I started telling them stories. First I drew pictures to help me tell the story and then I began writing them down. I really enjoy writing.

Jamie: How many books have you written?

Mary: 42

Adam: Have you won any prizes for writing or illustrating your books?

Mary: Yes, I have won awards for writing.

Dean: Are you working on a book right now? What is it about?

Mary: I am working on a book for teenagers about the famine and moving to Australia and gold mining.

Ross: Do you only write fiction books?

Mary: Yes, I only write fiction books and most of the stories are about boys.

Kathleen: Do you write every day? How long do you spend writing? Do you write it on a computer or do you write it out long handed?

Mary: Yes, I try to write everyday. I use a computer to write but I always have a notebook with me just in case I get an idea when I am out and about.



Chocolate Moon by Mary Arrigan

Publisher: Barrington Stoke Ltd

(10 Feb 2005)

ISBN-10: 1842992937

ISBN-13: 978-1842992937

Chris has a difficult relationship with his dad and has always got on better with his gran, who now has Alzheimer's and is in a home. After a particularly bad row, Chris runs away to Ireland and takes Gran with him. He wants to show her the place where she grew up one last time – and help her rediscover her 'chocolate moon' which she keeps talking about.

Development Education Project at Coláiste Eoin, Finglas

Class 2 Boyle took part in the Development Education Project. This is an initiative organised by Poetry Ireland in association with Irish Aid and Trócaire. This year's theme was Child Labour through Sport.

Nessa O'Mahony of Poetry Ireland undertook an 8 week residency in Coláiste Eoin, Finglas, and through various creative writing workshops explored the issues surrounding Child Labour. Class 2 Boyle wrote a play entitled 'The Tournament' and exhibited their work at Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise on 15 May 2008. Each residency costs the school €450.

The class thoroughly enjoyed the experience and actively participated in the programme. Some students, who were not initially part of the workshop process, attended Portlaoise on the day of the exhibition and 'stepped in' to enhance the performance.

For further information about this project, please contact Moira Cardiff, co-ordinator of the Poetry Ireland Writers in Schools Development Education project, on Tel: 01 475 8605. <http://www.poetryireland.ie/education/development-education.html>



Class 2 Boyle, performing in Portlaoise

Jungle Tales Out of School

By Karen O'Shea, JCSP Librarian, Jobstown Community College.

A good storyteller never lets the facts get in the way, and Antonio Rocha certainly held the swarm absolutely spell-bound in the new JCSP Demonstration Library, Jobstown Community College, Tallaght. Mime, sound effects, zany characters and physical comedy. The man is possessed, effervescent with energy.

Antonio Rocha is an internationally known storyteller. He has an electrifying style as he blends movement with verbal narrative and is a former student of Tony Montanaro and Marcel Marceau. Teachers, librarians and educators need to get in on the act.

The young adults were tamed and wildly entertained. Rocha pranced like a ballerina, twirled, jumped, dived, made his hands wiggle like gazelle ears from atop of his gleaming head – *“and still they gazed, and still the wonder grew, that one small head could carry all he knew.”* – Goldsmith.

Antonio performed tales from around the world and his culturally diverse show addressed all matter of communication, self-esteem and respect. He praised the Librarian (flattery will get you everywhere) as he felt quite welcome with the colourful display on Brazil (courtesy of the Brazilian embassy and a fair amount of shoe leather), with the relevant books propped up purposefully.

Rocha's career began in Brazil in 1985 and since then he has toured five continents, and performed for thousands in



festivals, performing arts centres, schools and libraries. So, we here in Jobstown Community College were very privileged indeed. He stopped now and again to chat and answer questions from the students, and my-o-my what a lot of questions they had.

Had he been bitten by an anaconda? Had he been

bitten by a tarantula? Had he been bitten by a piranha? Where did his mother come from? What language did they speak in Brazil? How high could he jump?

Very pertinent questions. So how did I manage to find such a nugget? Well, that's a story in itself. Rocha is a friend of Niall de Búrca, who helped me out when I was in a tight spot. However, Rocha is contactable at www.story.in.motion.com and rochact@maine.rr.com. If a particular school was thinking to bring him over for a repeat performance, perhaps it would be a good idea to liaise with other interested schools to share the cost and spread the magic.

Mr Antonio Rocha is a member of The Maine Arts Commission, The New England Foundation for the Arts and The National Storytelling Association.

Animal Magic visit to St Kilian's Community School Library



Chris Stokes, librarian

Animal Magic was present for half a day and took in three groups of approximately 40 to 50 students. As always, they were a great success. An article on the visit also featured in our local newspaper – the *Bray People*. This brought all the excitement back as the students saw their pictures and felt like celebrities.



Book Review

Mister Amperduke by Bob Byrne

A vicious beetle attacks a living Lego town while its creator stands by powerless to protect.

A strange story told entirely through pictures, and this lack of words alone would be enough to pigeonhole it as a niche product. And it is, but in every sense of the word this is a much bigger piece of work than the slim 154 pages first suggests.

Byrne uses over 2000 picture panels to tell a story that is both blockbuster and epic. It's a monster fest in the style of Godzilla. It's a story of Creationism and a moral parable.

The author/artist suggests that the work is best digested in small segments rather than reading straight through. I would agree. Taking the time to actually look at each panel allows an appreciation of the detail and density to the work, to enjoy the magnitude of the story.

Curiously, though there are no words it definitely feels like 'reading'. All kinds of complex theories exist on the area of 'visual literacy', but putting all these aside here is a book that seems ideally suited to the JCSP project. It's entirely unintimidating, it's fun, it has cartoon gore. Furthermore, Dublin-based



artist Bob Byrne was delighted to hear about the JCSP Library Project when I emailed him to enthuse about his work.

It's undoubtedly clever, original and even groundbreaking. It's also a great story which, if you can get over the hurdle of reading without words, you will enjoy every bit as much as the kids.

Chris Stokes

JCSP Demonstration Library Project Librarian
St Kilian's Community School, Bray.

Final Profiling 2008

The following are the top 20 Statements awarded to JCSP students in their Final Profile 2008. The figures are impressive, with a strong emphasis on Maths and English, the Cross-Curricular statements appear as do CSPE and Art. They really show that the statements are relevant and useful when over 1500 students are being awarded them.



| | Code | Statement | No. of Students |
|----|------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | M2 | Set, Relations and Charts | 1635 |
| 2 | M4 | Money | 1557 |
| 3 | M1 | Use of Number | 1522 |
| 4 | E1 | Personal Expression: Writing | 1497 |
| 5 | M5 | Use of Calculator | 1459 |
| 6 | E2 | Experience of Literature & Media | 1280 |
| 7 | M3 | Perimeter, Area and Volume | 1260 |
| 8 | M6 | Use of Number with calculator | 1229 |
| 9 | E4 | Experience of Literature | 1206 |
| 10 | E5 | Novel / Short Story | 1192 |
| 11 | E8 | Letters | 1184 |

| | Code | Statement | No. of Students |
|----|-------|--|-----------------|
| 12 | E6 | Poetry | 1184 |
| 13 | CC1 | Punctuality | 1168 |
| 14 | CC4 | Working Alone | 1146 |
| 15 | CC2 | Attendance | 1140 |
| 16 | M8 | Time, Speed and Scale | 1106 |
| 17 | A1 | Drawing | 1095 |
| 18 | CSPE1 | The Individual, Community and Society | 1086 |
| 19 | E7 | Play / Film | 1069 |
| 20 | CC3 | Working with Others | 1047 |

Useful Contacts – Special Events

Animal Magic

Animal Roadshow

Rosie Campbell, Deebert Cottage, Killmallock, Co. Limerick

Tel: 063 98777 **Mob:** 087 624 3546

www.animalmagic.ie

Artscope

Drama, dance, music, juggling workshops.

Caroline Wynne, 7 Elm Close, Griffeen Valley,

Lucan, Co. Dublin

Tel: 01 505 9582

www.artscope.ie

Bodhrán Kits

Kit includes: Formed rim, a goatskin, crossbars and tacks + step-by-step guide.

John Ellison, 1st Island Distribution Ltd Corballis,

Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 0404 46070, **Mob:** (087) 2540742

Graffiti Theatre Company

Educational theatre company, dedicated to the provision of high quality educational theatre performances, workshops and resource materials.

Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork

Tel: 021 439 7111

www.graffiti.ie

History Live

History – Stone Age, Greek & Romans, Celts, Vikings & Normans, Kings & Rebels, The Famine to The Easter Rising, The Great War, The Second World War.

Michael Moylan, Kilkieran, Ballyfoyle, Co. Kilkenny

Tel: (087) 680 3098

www.irishhistorylive.ie

Naturally Wild

Science

Dale Treadwell, Gum Tree Cottage, Carr's Cross,

Colehill, Kinnegad, Co. Meath,

Tel: 044 9379887, **Mob:** 087 9778803

www.naturallywild.ie

Niall de Búrca

Storyteller

Tel: 01 441 5452, **Mob:** 085 141 7338

Email: eolas@storyteller.ie, www.storyteller.ie

Reuben the Entertainer

Comedy/Mime

Reuben

Mob: 087 266 1361

www.entertainer.ie

Rhythm Riot Music

Samba. Based in the South East.

Part of the Brazilian Arts Network.

Thomas Duffy

Mob: 087 233 5684

Email: om@rhythmriotmusic.com

www.rhythmriotmusic.com

Junior Certificate School Programme

In-Service Calendar September to December 2008

| Meetings | Venues | Dates |
|--|--|--|
| Implementation Meeting for Principals and Co-ordinators new to the JCSP - Practical session on planning and materials for new JCSP coordinators. | Curriculum Development Unit, Dublin 12 | Tuesday September 9th |
| Implementation Meeting Co-ordinators new to the JCSP - Practical session on planning and materials for new JCSP coordinators. | Curriculum Development Unit, Dublin 12 | Wednesday September 10th |
| Comhdháil Scoileanna na Gaeltachta - Príomhoidí agus Comhordaitheoirí ó scoileanna CSTS sa Ghaeltacht ag roinnt dea-chleachtais agus áiseanna. | Connemara Coast Hotel, Galway | Tuesday September 16th |
| Whole School Approach to Literacy Development at Junior Cycle Modular Day 1 - Practical approaches to making your subject accessible for students with literacy difficulties. Teachers will outline what has worked in their schools. | Limerick Education Centre | Thursday September 18th |
| Developing Readers and Reading Spaces in your School Modular Day 1 - This course will look at ways in which schools can create reading spaces, develop their stock of books and increase their students' reading for pleasure. | Ambassador Hotel, Cork | Monday September 22nd |
| Making Digital Stories and Comics - An exciting and innovative approach, using digital cameras, storyboard and comic software, to present student work. | Cork Education Support Centre The Digital Hub, Dublin | Tuesday September 23rd Wednesday September 24th |
| Making sense of Maths and Numeracy at Junior Cycle Modular Day 1 - Practical approaches to teaching Numeracy and Mathematics. | Curriculum Development Unit, Dublin 12 | Monday September 29th |
| Home Economics - Presentations will offer strategies and techniques in the teaching of Home Economics, sharing resources and best practice. | Ambassador Hotel, Cork | Tuesday September 30th |
| Developing Readers and Reading Spaces in your School Modular Day 1 - This course will look at ways in which schools can create reading spaces, develop their stock of books and increase their students' reading for pleasure. | Kilkenny Education Centre | Thursday October 2nd |
| Co-ordinators Meeting - Support for co-ordinators in implementing the JCSP in school. Recent updates and new initiatives will be outlined. | Curriculum Development Unit, Dublin 12 | Monday October 6th |
| | Limerick Education Centre | Tuesday October 7th |
| | Sligo Education Centre | Wednesday October 8th |
| | Ambassador Hotel, Cork | Thursday October 9th |
| | Drumcondra Education Centre | Friday October 10th |
| Whole School Approach to Literacy Development at Junior Cycle Modular Day 1 - Practical approaches to making your subject accessible for students with literacy difficulties. Teachers will outline what has worked in their schools. | Monaghan Education Centre | Monday October 13th |
| How to Run Initiatives - This course will outline tried and trusted ways to get your initiatives up and running. Come and gain from the experience of other teachers in the JCSP network. | Sligo Education Centre Curriculum Development Unit, Dublin 12 Ambassador Hotel, Cork | Tuesday October 14th |
| Teachers new to the JCSP - This day is open to all subject teachers who are beginning to teach JCSP. | Days Hotel, Galway | Thursday October 16th |
| | Curriculum Development Unit, Dublin 12 | Thursday October 16th |
| | Ambassador Hotel, Cork | Friday October 17th |
| | Donegal Education Centre | Friday October 17th |
| | Kilkenny Education Centre | Monday October 20th |
| | Navan Education Centre | Monday October 20th |
| English and the JCSP - Presentations will offer strategies and techniques in aspects of teaching of English: Film and Creative Writing, sharing resources and best practice. | Limerick Education Centre | Tuesday October 21st |
| "It's the teachers that make the difference" - Motivation, feedback and formative assessment in the JCSP. | Curriculum Development Unit, Dublin 12 | Monday November 10th |
| Developing Readers and Reading Spaces in your School Modular Day 1 - This course will look at ways in which schools can create reading spaces, develop their stock of books and increase their students' reading for pleasure. | Donegal Education Centre | Thursday November 13th |
| Mind Mapping - A strategy to maximize students' memory and improve note taking and learning. A useful revision tool. | Limerick Education Centre | Thursday November 13th |
| Making sense of Maths and Numeracy at Junior Cycle Modular Day 1 - Practical approaches to teaching Numeracy and Mathematics. | Mayo Education Centre | Monday November 17th |
| Whole School Approach to Literacy Development at Junior Cycle Modular Day 1 - Practical approaches to making your subject accessible for students with literacy difficulties. Teachers will outline what has worked in their schools. | Curriculum Development Unit, Dublin 12 | Thursday November 20th |
| Gaeilge and the JCSP - Presentations will offer strategies and techniques in the teaching of Gaeilge, sharing resources and best practice. | Days Hotel, Galway | Friday November 21st |
| Outdoor Activities and Cross Curricular Links - This session will look at successful strategies for bringing the outdoors into the classroom - linking PE, Geography, History, Science and other curricular areas. | Co. Wexford Education Centre | Monday November 24th |
| English and the JCSP - Presentations will offer strategies and techniques in aspects of teaching of English: Film and Creative Writing, sharing resources and best practice. | Sligo Education Centre | Thursday December 4th |
| CSPE and JCSP - Presentations will offer strategies and techniques in the teaching of CSPE, sharing resources and best practice. | Curriculum Development Unit, Dublin 12 | Thursday December 11th |
| | Cork Education Support Centre | Friday December 12th |

PLEASE NOTE YOU WILL BE INFORMED OF ANY CHANGES TO THIS CALENDAR

Times: Full day courses commence at 10.00, registration at 9.30, and finish at 3.30.

1/2 day courses commence with light lunch at 12.30 and finish at 4pm

If you are interested in attending any of the in-service courses, your JCSP co-ordinator has a copy of the fax reply form, or call the JCSP office to reserve a place on 01 4020425 / 014535487 or email jcsp@iol.ie. Tailored, in-school, full staff in-service on any aspect of the JCSP framework can be arranged with the Support Service.



The Support Team



Aideen Cassidy – *National Co-ordinator/Literacy Advisor*

Tel: 087 233 3839

Email: aideen.cassidy@cdu.cdvec.ie
aideencassidy@slss.ie

Bernadette Kiely – *Assistant National Co-ordinator*

JCSP Library Project Co-ordinator

Tel: 087 220 8187

Email: bernie.kiely@cdu.cdvec.ie
berniekiely@slss.ie

Kathleen Moran – *Senior Project Librarian*

JCSP Demonstration Library Project

Tel: 087 214 7787

Email: kathleen.moran@cdu.cdvec.ie

Jerry McCarthy – *JCSP Regional Development Officer
Numeracy Advisor*

Tel: 087 654 0164

Email: jerrymccarthy@slss.ie

Isabel Baker – *JCSP Regional Development Officer Literacy Advisor*

Tel: 086 172 6174

Email: isabelbaker@slss.ie

Mary Clare Higgins – *JCSP Regional Development Officer Literacy/
Numeracy Advisor*

Tel: 087 626 3151

Email: maryclarehiggins@slss.ie

Statia Somers – *JCSP Regional Development Officer Literacy Advisor*

Tel: 087 263 7837

Email: statiasomers@slss.ie

Denise O’Flanagan – *JCSP Regional Development Officer
Literacy/Numeracy Advisor*

Tel: 087 962 7555

Email: deniseoflanagan@slss.ie

Mick O’Riordan – *JCSP Regional Development Office
Literacy Advisor*

Tel: 087 216 2351

Email: michaeloriordan@slss.ie

Dorothy Butterly – *JCSP Regional Development Officer
Literacy Advisor*

Tel: 087 654 0246

Email: dorothybutterly@slss.ie

Damien O’Reilly – *Office Manager*

Tel: 01 402 0425

Email: damien.o’reilly@cdu.cdvec.ie

Tommy Doonan – *Administration*

Tel: 01 453 5487

Email: tommy.doonan@cdu.cdvec.ie

Dorota Ruszczak – *Administration*

Tel: 01 453 5487

David Swaine – *Administration*

Tel: 01 453 5487

Email: david.swaine@cdu.cdvec.ie

Lisa Carter – *Office Manager*

Tel: 01 453 5487

Email: lisa.carter@cdu.cdvec.ie

The Junior Certificate School Programme Support Service is funded by the Teacher Education Section, Department of Education and Science and the European Social Fund.

The Junior Certificate School Programme is a National Programme sponsored by the Department of Education and Science and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment.

The Junior Certificate School Programme Literacy and Numeracy Strategy and the Demonstration Library Project is funded by the Early Literacy Initiative and the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) Action Plan.

Do get in touch...

...if we can support your school in any way in implementing the JCSP. We are available to visit your school, as well as engage in a process of professional development with the team of teachers or the full staff. We can provide inputs on any aspect of the JCSP, as well as the JCSP Literacy and Numeracy Strategy, in the context of a process of professional development.

Additionally, please let us know of your views or comments on any aspect of the Student Profiling System. We need to hear how you are finding the use of statements in your classroom and how the process of positive feedback to the students is going.