

JCS P Newsletter

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE SCHOOL PROGRAMME

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Issue 8 March 2009

Close up on Carndonagh Community School

The "Close up on..." section in our Newsletter has become a regular feature and provides a forum to showcase, acknowledge and highlight some of the range of JCSP activities and achievements in one particular school setting. In this edition Carndonagh Community School on the Inishowen peninsula in Co. Donegal has been selected. The school has been described as "the most northerly secondary school in Ireland".

Principal: Mr. Paul Fiorentini
Deputy Principals: Ms. Carmel Doherty and
 Mr. John Mc Guinness
JCSP Co-ordinator: Mr. Finbarr Gallagher

The Junior Certificate School Programme was introduced in 1998 as a pilot scheme with a group of 10 students. Currently there are 58 students in four designated classes participating in JCSP:

- 1st Yr** 19 students, Anchor Teacher is Ms. McLaughlin
- 2nd Yr** 14 students, Anchor Teacher is Ms. Simkins
- 3rd Yr** Group 1: 16 students, Anchor Teacher is Mr. Browne
 Group 2: 9 students, Anchor Teacher is Mr. Doherty

Each class has an Anchor Teacher who performs the same roll as a class teacher but s/he would also take their group for RE, SPHE and CSPE as well as their subject area. This ensures that at least one-third of the student's week is spent with their Anchor Teacher thus building up a strong relationship. The Anchor Teacher becomes the 'Daddy & Mummy' and will usually be quick to defend their 'children' from all sides.

The students remain in their designated groups for the core subjects of Irish, English, Maths, RE, SPHE and CSPE but are integrated with the main-stream for the optional subjects. This we find helps the students to bond better as a group, find their own level within the group while having the opportunity to be part of the whole year group. Through our Special Needs Department, teachers are informed of the individual needs of students on the programme thus helping in the planning of classes.

The following are comments from the principal and teachers involved with the JCSP students in the school:

"The JCSP supports pupils to successfully complete their Junior Certificate in a planned programme, by teaching and learning methods that are comfortable for their needs, which allows them to measure their progress and encourages and rewards their efforts and achievements." **Mr. Fiorentini-Principal**

"JCSP means accentuating the positive and celebrating achievement. It ensures success as all tasks are broken down into bite size pieces."
Ms. Carmel Doherty-Deputy Principal and former Co-ordinator

"The Junior Certificate Schools Programme is a world class way of educating boys and girls who might otherwise leave school early. It is a very enjoyable way of learning. I would have loved this when I was at school."
Ms. Catherine Monagle - Co-ordinator of Special Needs

▶ Irish Version

"Being an Anchor teacher for three years with this class has enabled me to establish a very good working relationship with the students. I have been in a position to monitor and encourage their progress from year to year. Many of these students intend to take up one of our senior cycle programmes next year." **Mr. Paul Browne - 3rd Year Anchor Teacher**

"Being a JCSP Anchor teacher for the last few years has taught me more about teaching than the previous ten years. My class give a great reason to get out of bed every morning. It's so much fun and rewarding."

Ms. Lorna Simkins - 2nd Year Anchor Teacher

"A life less ordinary" **Mr. John C. Doherty - 3rd Year Anchor Teacher**

"More demanding and challenging...needs to be a manageable size"

Ms. Marie McLaughlin - 1st Year Anchor teacher

Annual Events: The school year for students participating in JCSP is marked by certain key events which include:

Christmas Celebration: This has run for the past five years because of its success. The Third Years organise it as part of Cross Curricular Statement 14. They send out invites to parents, staff and special guests. They decorate the Coffee Dock area of the school, assemble a stage and back drops and set up the sound system. On the morning of the Celebration they prepare some of the food, look after back stage and will introduce all the events

taking place. The Second and First Years must perform a song or a play, which of course always impresses the mummies, daddies and teachers!! Students work from term 1 is displayed in the classrooms for all to see.



Christmas Celebration—Students helped to prepare AND eat the goodies.



Christmas Celebration— Students put their work on display for their parents and teachers to see



Christmas Celebration—Class 2G do it like Travolta in their performance of “Brian the Christmas Tree”



And Mr. Gallagher with the front stage crew of Gary, Brendan, Roisin, Natalie and Paul

Céilí

We hold this to coincide with Seachtain na Gaeilge. The Second Years help organise it. The first year Irish classes print out keywords associated with a céilí and post them around the room in preparation for the event.

We use a local chef to come in on the morning of the Céilí and help the Home Economic students to bake scones and make sandwiches. Last year our Transition Year students joined in on the day.



Céilí—The Siege of Ennis



Céilí—Baking scones

Summer Celebration

This is always held in our library, as our students would have spent a lot of the three years reading and researching there. Some of the initiatives are also centred here. Students' Art, Craft & Design, Materials Technology Wood, Materials Technology Metal and Home Economics project work is put on display so that their parents can see that their children have reached the required standard of the Junior Certificate and are ready for the up-coming state exams.



Summer Celebration—Mr. McCarron and Mr. Fiorentini present Olivia with her Final Profile.



Summer Celebration—Ms. Dickson and Mr. Fiorentini presenting Christopher with his Final Profile.

Successful Initiatives

Students also participate in a number of initiatives, which highlight different successes for the various groups throughout the year. Some of these include:

Make a Book: "Drive 2 Arrive" Road Safety in Inishowen was the theme chosen by Ms. Dickson's class. In researching this project the boys made contact with the local accident and emergency response units. They visited the Fire Station and the Garda Traffic Corp and invited the Ambulance Service to the school.

They designed a model Hummer in the Art room and made it in the Metal and Wood departments. They carried out surveys and even wrote a short play on the topic. When completed they invited the sixth class boys from the national school to view their work. The absolute highlight for the boys was flying to Dublin from City of Derry Airport for the exhibition topped off with breakfast in Clearys.



Make a Book—Designing the Hummer in Art with Ms. Cassidy



Make a Book—Taking the Air Bus to Dublin

Reading Challenge: The class was challenged to read 1000 pages each week for four weeks. After finishing a book each student had to complete a brief report and record the number of words read. The students loved the challenge and got very competitive as the weeks went by. They read a total of 5391 pages. This is what some of them had to say:

"Some of us had never finished a book before. We had great craic"

"I'm proud of myself for finishing a book...I've never finished a book in my life."

"Reading takes a long time"



School Twinning—The Students from Ardee and Carndonagh meet up in The Creggan Country Park, Derry

School Twinning and Outdoor Pursuits: We are fortunate to have The Creggan Country Park and Reservoir only forty minutes from the school. They specialise in catering for school groups. Last year our First Years twinned with Ardee Community College in Co. Louth and invited them to Derry for a day. While there, they experienced some orienteering, team building and water sports. Afterwards, the class agreed that this had been the highlight of their year.

Reading Corner: We were fortunate to be granted the Reading Corner initiative this year. As our library forms a central part in JCSP activities in this school, we are always looking for new ways to use the library. Teachers constantly bring their classes here to read newspapers and magazines and to research projects on the computers. This can leave the main area quite crowded at times. Our plan is to cordon off part of the library with low-level partitions so as not to isolate the space. JCSP reading materials will be shelved here so that our students can come in and read at their leisure.

Other initiatives that we have successfully undertaken were Word Millionaire, Paired Reading (with TY students and 2nd Class pupils), Spelling Challenge, Maths for Fun (Parents monitoring), Science (Building a Rocket), ESS field trips, Home Economics (Patchwork and Weaving), Subject Topic Box, Goodie Boxes and Career Guidance.

We would like to thank Finbarr Gallagher and his colleagues for giving us a look at JCSP in Carndonagh Community School, and we wish them every success.



ESS Field Trip—Doagh Island Famine Village.

Garamharc ar.....Pobalscoil Carndonagh

Is cúram faoi leith den Nuachtlitir é an 'Garamharc ar scoil'. Tugann an 'Garamharc' deis an raon imeachtaí agus gníomhachtaí a léiriú atá idir lámh ag scoil faoi Clár Scoile an Teastais Shóisearaigh (CSTS).

San eagrán seo cuirimid fáilte roimh Pobalscoil Carndonagh, 'an scoil is faide thuaidh in Éirinn'.

Príomhoide:	Mr. Paul Fiorentini
Leas Príomhoide:	Ms. Carmel Doherty agus Mr. John Mc Guinness
Comhordaitheoir CSTS:	Mr. Finbarr Gallagher

Cuireadh tús leis an CSTS sa scoil sa bhliain 1998 mar scéim píolóta le deichniúr scoláire. Faoi láthair ta suas le 54 scoláire páirteach sa CSTS, iad roinnte idir ceithre ranganna atá ceapaithe don chlár:

1ú Bliain 19 dalta, Ms. McLoughlin, Múinteoir Taca.

2ú Bliain 14 dalta, Ms. Simkins, Múinteoir Taca.

3ú Bliain Grúpa 1: 16 dalta, Mr. Browne, Múinteoir Taca.

Grúpa 2: 9 dalta, Mr. Dochery, Múinteoir Taca.

Tá múinteoir taca ag gach rang leis na dulagaisí céanna agus atá ag an múinteoir ranga ach amháin go dtógann an múinteoir taca an grúpa le haghaidh RE, SPHE agus CSPE chomh maith lena ábhair féin. Deimhníonn seo go mbíonn rang ag gach grúpa in éineacht leis an múinteoir taca ar a laghad i gcóir trían den tseachtain. Sa tslí seo bíonn gaol daingean speisialta idir an múinteoir taca agus na daltaí. Bíonn an múinteoir taca cosúil le 'athair nó máthair' ar na daltaí, ullamh chun iad a chosaint i gcónaí.

Fanann na daltaí ina ngrúpaí féin le haghaidh Gaeilge, Béarla, Mata, RE, SPHE agus CSPE. Bíonn said meascáithe leis na scoláirí eile sa príomh-sruth i gcóir na hábhair roghnacha. Tugann an córas seo deis do dhaltaí obair as scáth a chéile agus cabhraíonn sé leo a leibhéal féin a aimsiú taobh isitigh den ghrúpa. Chomh maith le sin is féidir leo bheith mar chuid de phríomh-grúpa na bliana. Le tacaíocht ó Roinn Riachtanais Speisialta na scoile faigheann múinteoirí eolas maidir leis an riar atá in oiriúint do dhaltaí CSTS go bhfuil riachtanais acu. Is mór an chabhair é seo agus curaclam agus ranganna a bheith á phleanáil. Seo a leanas cúntais ón Príomhoide agus múinteoirí atá ag gabháil leis an CSTS:

"De bharr an CSTS éiríonn le daltaí an Teastais Sóisearach a chur i gcríoch go rathúil i gclár atá leagtha amach, go bhfuil módhanna múinte agus foghlama ag baint leis atá in oiriúint dá riachtanais agus a chuireann dalta ar a chumas a dul chun cinn féin a thómhas agus luach a saothair agus a ghníomhachtaí a fháil." **An t-uasal Pól Fiorentini, Príomhoide.**

"Ciallaíonn an CSTS béim ar chinnteacht, agus rath ar an obair. Deimhníonn an clár go neiríonn go maith le scoláirí de bhrí go bhfuil na tascanna briste síos i gcodanna beaga" **Carmel Uí Dhochartaigh, Leas Príomhoide agus iar-Chomhordaitheoir**

"Togha clár é is ea an CSTS chun buachaillí agus cailíní a oiliúint agus a choimeád ar scoil. Tá sult agus taitneamh le baint as an bhfoghlaim. Is trua nach raibh sé ann nuair a bhí mé féin ar scoil" **Caitríona Monagle, Chomhordaitheoir Riachtanais Speisialta.**

"Mar múinteoir taca le haghaidh trí bhliana leis an rang seo tá teagmháil an-mhaith agam leis na daltaí ó thaobh obair de. Tá deis iontach agam mo-naiteoireacht a dhéanamh orthu agus iad a spreagadh ó bhliain go bliain. Tá an-chuid diobh ag súil le leanúint ar aghaidh go dtí an Sraith Shinsir an bhliain seo chugainn" **Pól de Brún – Múinteoir Taca, 3ú Bliain**

"D'fhoghlaim mé níos mó i dtaobh módhanna múinte mar Múinteoir Taca le cúpla bliain anuas ná mar a d'fhoghlaim mé le blianta fada roimhe sin. Faighim cúis maith éirí as an leaba gach maidin de bharr an ranga CSTS seo. Tá taitneamh agus tairbhe le baint as." **Lorna Simkins – Múinteoir Taca, 2ú Bliain**

"Saol as an ngnáth" **Seán Ó Dochartaigh – Múinteoir Taca 3ú Bliain.**

"Tá éileamh agus dúshlán níos mó ag baint leis..... ní mór dó bheith beag chun é a láimhseáil" **Marie McLoughlin – Múinteoir Taca, 1ú Bliain.**

Eachtraí Bliantúil: Is iad príomh imeachtaí na bliana do dhaltaí atá páirteach sa CSTS ná:

Ceiliúradh Nollaig: Le cúig bhliain anuas tá an tionscnamh seo ar siúl agus tá rath ag baint leis. Eagraíonn daltaí an 3ú Bhliain an ócáid mar chuid den obair Tras-Churaclam agus go háirithe Ráiteas 14. Tugtar cuireadh do thuismitheoirí, múinteoirí agus aíonna speisialta. Maisíonn na daltaí ceaintín na scoile agus cuirtear stáitse, an córas fuaime agus an halla in áirithe don ceiliúradh. Bíonn na daltaí i bhfeighil an cheiliúraidh ó thus deireadh,

ag ullmhú bia agus ag eagrú imeachtaí. Cuireann daltaí an Chéad Bhliain agus an Dara Bhliain dráma nó píosa cheoil ar siúl agus baineann na tusmitheoirí agus na múinteoirí taitneamh as. Bíonn taispeántas de dea-obair na ndaltaí le feiceáil timpeall freisin.



Ceiliúradh na Nollaig- Ullmhaítear agus ithtear bia, mílseáin agus rudaí deasa.



Ceiliúradh na Nollaig – Eagraíonn daltaí taispeántas an dea-obair



Ceiliúradh na Nollag- Cuireann Rang 2G rince ar nós John Travolta ar siúl le léiriú de "Brian an Crann Nollaig"



Ceiliúradh na Nollag- An t-uasal Ó Gallachóir leis an bhfoireann eagraithe, Gary, Breandán, Róisín, Natalie agus Pó. I

Céilí

Cuirtear An Céilí ar siúl i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge. Cabhraíonn daltaí an Dara Bhliain le eagrú an Chéilí. Oibríonn daltaí an Chéad Bhliain ar eochairfhocail a bhaineann le Céilí agus crocann said suas ar phóstaeir iad timpeall an tseomra.

Tagann cócaire isteach maidin an chéilí agus i dteannta scoláirí Eacnamaíocht Baile ullmhaítear ceapairí agus cístí milis. Anuraidh ghlac daltaí na hidirbhlana páirt san ócáid.



Céilí – lonsaí na hInse



Céilí – Ag bácáil cístí

Ceiliúradh Shamhraidh

Tárlaíonn an tionscnamh seo sa Leabharlann de bhrí gur chaith na daltaí an-chuid ama ag léamh inti agus ag déanamh taighde. Eagraíodh tionscnaimh eile ann freisin. Cuirtear suas taispeántas den obair go léir a bhí idir lámhe ag daltaí agus iad ag ullmhú do scrúdú an Teastais Shóisearaigh agus de ghnáth tá sé soiléir ón dtaispeántas oibre go bhfuil caighdeán an Teastais Shóisearaigh sroichte ag daltaí CSTS na scoile. Taispeántar an dea-obair ó na hábhair go léir, ina measc, Ealaíon, Ceird & Dearadh, Adhmadóireacht, Míotalóireacht, Eacnamaíocht Baile agus Obair ar Tionscnaimh.



Ceiliúradh Shamhraidh - Mr. McCarron, Mr. Fiorentini agus Olivia



Ceiliúradh Shamhraidh - Ms. Dickson, Mr. Fiorentini agus Christopher

Tionscnaimh Rathúla

Glacann daltaí páirt i dTionscnaimh CSTS trasna na scoile. Léiríonn na tionscnaimh an obair rathúil atá ar siúl le daltaí CSTS na scoile. Ina measc tá na tionscnaimh seo a leanas:

Make a Book: "Drive 2 Arrive"; Sábháilteacht ar Bóithre Inis Eoin. Roghnaíodh an téama seo i rang Mrs. Dickson. Rinne daltaí an ranga teagmháil le aonaid freagra timpiste agus éigeandála sa cheantar. Thug said cuairt ar an Stáisiún an Briogáid Dóiteáin agus ar Fhoireann Tráchtá na nGárdaí. Tugadh cuireadh do Seirbhís Otharcharr teacht go dtí an scoil.

Dhreachaigh na daltaí samhail de Hummer sa seomra Ealaíona agus ansin chuir said le chéile é sna seomraí Míotalóireachta & Adhmadóireachta. Rinne said suirbhé agus chumadar píosa drámaíochta bunaithe ar an ábhar. Nuair a bhí an tionscnamh críochnaithe thug na daltaí cuireadh do dhaltaí ón mBunscoil áitiúil teacht agus an obair a fheiceáil. Mar barr ar an scéal agus an rud a thug an taitneamh is mó do na daltaí ná an turas ar eitleán ó Dhoire go Baile Átha Cliath chuig taispeántas náisiúnta Make-a-Book. Shroich said Baile Átha Cliath in am don bhricféasta i Clearys.



Make-a-Book - ag dul ar bord an Airbus go Baile Átha Cliath



Make-a-Book - Ag dearadh an Hummer le Ms. Cassidy

An Dúshlán Léitheoireachta: Cuireadh an dúshlán os chomhair an ranga, 1000 focail a léamh gach seachtain ar feadh ceithre seachtain. Ar chríochnú léamh leabhair bhí sé de dhualgas ar gach dalta tuairisc beag a scríobh agus an méid focail a bhí léite a choimeád. Léigh an rang 5391 leathan-nacha iomlán. Seo a bhí le rá acu ina thaobh:

“Cuid againn, níor chríochnaíomar leabhar riamh roimhe seo. Bhí an-craic againn”

“Táim an-bródúil asam féin as ucht leabhar a chríochnú. Níor chríochnaigh mé leabhar riamh roimhe seo”

“Tógann an léitheoireacht an-chuid ama”



Cúplacht Scoile- Scoláirí ó Ardee agus Carndonagh ag buaileadh le chéile ag Creggan County Park, Doire.

Cúplacht Scoile agus Tóraíocht an Taobh Amuigh: Tá an t-ádh linn go bhfuil Creggan County Park & Reservoir cóngarach don scoil. Oibríonn said go hiondúil le grúpaí beaga. Anuraidh thugamar cuireadh do dhaltai ó Choláiste Phobail Ardee, Contae Lú teacht go dtí Doire ar feadh an lae. Rinne said gníomhachtaí uisce, dreapadóireachta, tógáil fóirne, gníomhachtaí cuibhreacha. Sa deireadh thiar thall aontaíodh gurbh é an tionscnamh seo barr-eachtra na bliana.

Cúinne Léitheoireachta: Bhí an t-ádh linn go bhfuair eamar an Cúinne Léitheoireachta i mbliana. Bíimid i gcónaí ag lorg módhanna nua chun úsáid a bhaint as an Leabharlann. Baineann múinteoirí an-úsáid as an Leabharlann agus as an Cúinne Léitheoireachta ionas go léifeadh daltaí nuachtáin agus irisí agus chun taighde a dhéanamh ar ríomhairí. Uaireanta bíonn slua mór timpeall na Leabarlainne ach tá plean ann spás a chruthú don Cúinne Léitheoireachta. Beidh ábhair léitheoireachta le taispeáint sa tslí go mbeidh daltaí CSTS in ann dul ann chun léamh ar a sáimhín só.

‘Siad na tionscnaimh eile a bhain an scoil taitneamh agus tairbhe ast ná: *Word Millionaire, Paired Reading, Spelling Challenge, Maths for fun, Eolaíocht, ESS field trips, Eacnamaíocht Baile, Subject Topic Box, Goodie Boxes agus Career Guidance.*

Ba mhaith linn míle buíochas a ghabháil ar Fionnbarra Ó Ghallachóir agus a cháirde as ucht an deis seo féachaint isteach ar Pobalscoil Carndonagh agus guíimid go leanfadh rath ar an dea-obair le daltaí CSTS amach anseo.



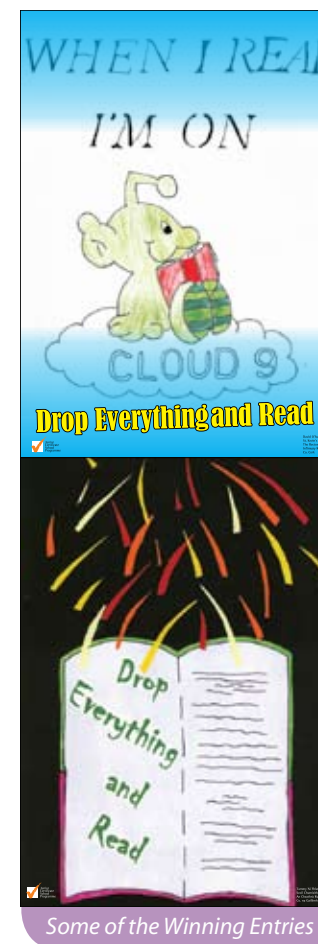
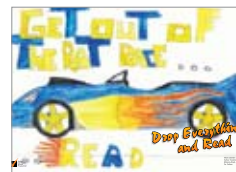
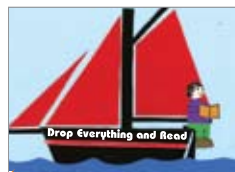
ESS Field Trip – Sráidbhaile an Ghorta, Doagh

JCSP Competition Winners 2008 – Drop Everything and Read School Winners:

A very big thank you to the students and teachers, that participated in the JCSP DEAR Competition. It was a very difficult task to choose the 'winners'. The standard of the entries was very high, with imaginative slogans and art work. After a lot of debating the following were selected:

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

- **Aitor Ozacca**, Ennis Community College, Ennis Co. Clare
- **Ann-Marie Brennan**, Mercy Secondary School, Inchicore, Dublin 8
- **Bernard Joyce**, Ennis Community College, Ennis, Co. Clare
- **Claudia Martin**, North Presentation Secondary School, Farranree, Cork
- **Conor Nagle**, St. Kevin's, Infirmarý Road, Cork
- **David O'Sullivan**, St. Kevin's Infirmarý Road, Cork
- **Declan Sheehan**, McEgan College, Macroom, Co. Cork
- **Edi Vlas**, Larkin Community College, Dublin 1
- **Eoin Stafford**, Moyle Park College, Clondalkin, Dublin 22
- **Jade Whyte**, St. Michael's College, Cappamore, Co. Limerick
- **James McNally**, Carlow Vocational School, Kilkenny Road, Carlow
- **Jodie Whyte**, St. Michael's College, Cappamore, Co. Limerick
- **Kavya Narra**, Mater Christi, Cappagh Road, Dublin
- **Kirsty Robb**, Deelee College, Raphoe, Co. Donegal
- **Marie Ruane**, Coláiste Iascaigh, Co. Sligo
- **Micheal Rua Seoige**, Scoil Chumsitheach Chiarain, An Cheathru Rua
- **Neanah Lee**, Mount Carmel Secondary School, King's Inn St
- **Neil Kelleher**, Bishop McEgan College, Macroom, Co. Cork
- **Niamh Kelly**, St. Aidan's Community School, Brookfield, Tallaght, Dublin 24
- **Nicole Fortune**, Bunclody Vocational College, Wexford
- **Patrick O'Sullivan**, Coláiste Ard Alainn, Glanmire, Co. Cork
- **Sean McKeever**, St. Aidan's Community School, Brookfield, Tallaght, Dublin 24
- **Shane Quinlan**, Carlow Vocational School, Kilkenny Road, Carlow
- **Skaiste Grigalaniciute**, New Ross Vocational College, New Ross, Co. Wexford
- **Stephanie Seoighe**, Scoil Chumsitheach Chiaráin, An Cheaturu Rua, Co. Galway
- **Susan Kearns**, Mercy Secondary School, Inchicore, Dublin 8
- **Tahmy Ni Fhlatharta**, Scoil Chumsitheach Chiarain, An Cheathru Rua
- **Tasha Phillipot**, New Ross Vocational College
- **Vikki Kampane**, Larkin Community College, Dublin 1
- **Wendy Tobin**, Enniscorthy Vocational College, Mile House Road, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
- **Zaneta Najda**, Larkin Community College, Dublin 1



New Competition Announced FÓGRA: COMÓRTAS

Inviting all students of English and Art to write a book review with an illustration

(Please note that students can review fiction and /or non-fiction books)

We are looking for book reviews with illustrations to put up on our website:

www.jcspliteracy.ie

Some will also be selected for the next edition of the newsletter and participating schools will receive book tokens

Closing Date: May 6th 2009

All entries to:

JCSP Support Service, Book Review 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.

Cuireadh do scoláirí Béarla & Ealaíne Léirmheas leabhair a scríobh le pictiúr

(Nóta: Tá léirmheas ceadaithe ar leabhair ficsean agus/nó leabhair neamh-ficsean)

Táimid ag lorg léirmheasanna le pictiúir le chur suas ar ár suíomh idirlíne www.jcsp.ie

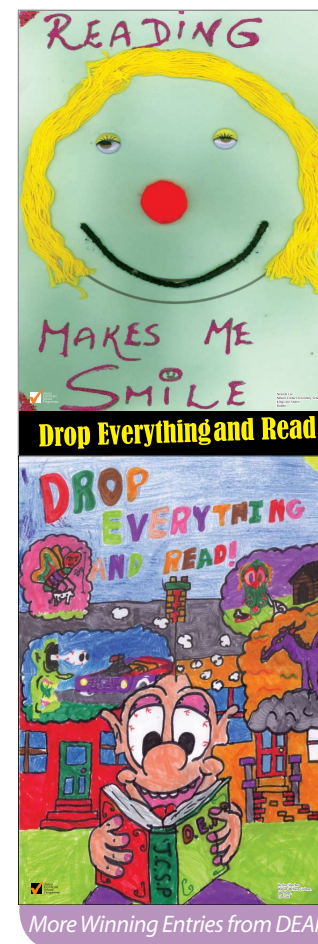
Roghánófar roinnt díobh chomh maith le haghaidh an chéad eagrán eile den nuachtlitr agus gheobhaidh scoileanna a ghlacann páirt éarlaisí leabhar

Le bheith istigh ag an CDU ar an 6ú lá de Mí Bealtaine, 2009

Seoladh:

Comórtas Léirmheas Leabhair,
JCSP Support Service,
Captain's Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12.

Bí cinnte ainm na scoile, ainm ranga agus do ainm féin a chur ar an taobh thiar den iontráil.



Focus on Students

The "Focus on Students" section in our Newsletter is new and is to provide a forum to showcase work undertaken by students. In this edition we have book reviews and an interview with Storyteller Niall de Burca. We will be looking for student work to include in this section in future editions: poems, short stories, book reviews, photos etc will all be very welcome from students and teachers. Just e-mail all to jcspnewsletter@gmail.com. We look forward to the many delights that you no doubt have in store for us.

Book reviews – Students, St. Kevin's YEP

By Ryan Daly

The author of my book *Johnny Delgado Like Father Like Son* is Kevin Brooks. My favourite character is Marcus because he knows everything about Johnny's dad and how he was killed and about the man who killed him. The story is about revenge. Johnny wants to avenge his father's murder.

Johnny's father was a police man. Another police man called Jack Taylor hired a member of a gang to kill Johnny's dad and then supplied the killer with thousands of pounds worth of heroin so the killer would take an overdose. The only person left that had evidence was the killer's sister, so Jack gave her heroin as well, but she didn't die.

I like the book because it is very interesting and very exciting. It's a real page turner and it keeps you guessing right to the end.

By Tony Fitzgerald

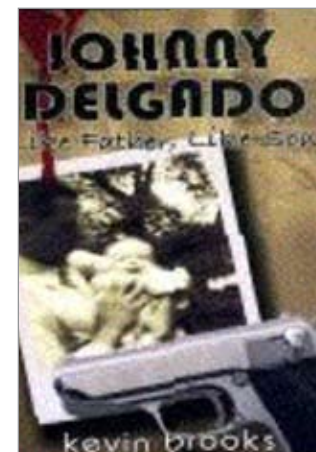
The author of my book *School for Bad Kids* is Kamilla Zwolak. I gave my book seven marks out of ten. In my opinion the main characters of the book are Ben or "Ben the Bully", Ms Sharple and her vicious dog Fang.

My favourite character is Fang. I choose Fang for even though he is only a dog he demands eminent respect and sends a shivering chill down the spines of the pupils with the sound of his bark or even with a low growl he can make them quiver and shake.

The story-line begins with a child called Ben who is sent to the daunting school for his recent actions, the school is run by Ms Sharple, who attempts to use the children in the school to rob earth of its atmosphere for her home-land Mars, but fails miserably.

I like the book, it's a good read and keeps your eyes glued to each and every page with the suspense and you'll find yourself reading it to the last page.

Although it is a good read I would not recommend it to a friend because even though I found it interesting enough to write my review on, I think that it may not be for everyone and the ending cannot match the introduction and that's where my seven out of ten comes from.



By Conor Nagle

Author: Ann Jungman

Title: Siege

Marks out of ten:10/10

Name the main characters: Ivan and Varya

Who is your favourite character?

Ivan is my favourite character. I like him because he never joined the war. He stayed with his family and took care of them.

What was the story about?

It is about the Germans fighting the Russians. All the sons are going away from their families.

Did you like this book? Why?

Yes I really liked this book because Ivan stayed with his family. He kept them safe during the war.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

I would recommend this book to my friends. I think we could all learn how important our families are by reading this book.

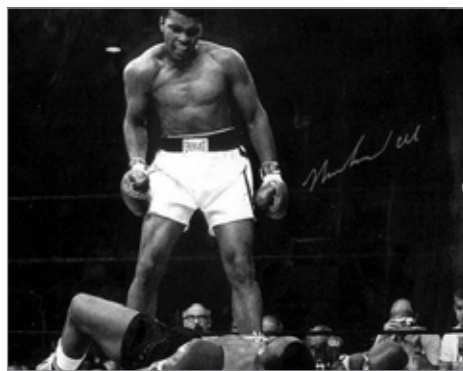
By Mark O'Brien

The author of my book *The Greatest* is Alan Gibbons.

The story is about a Muslim who tried to live a life the same as Muhammad Ali. He was the most famous American boxer of all time. They both were bullied when they were young boys. They both joined boxing clubs and beat their bullies in the ring.

I enjoyed the book because it had something to do with Muhammad Ali. As a boxer he is one of the best that ever lived. The book lets you find out about his life which I found interesting.

I would recommend this book to people who have an interest in boxing or if you want to know about the life of Muhammad Ali.



By Aaron Walsh

The book I am reviewing is called the *Haunted House* and Ritchie Perry wrote this book. The story is about a haunted house. Mr. Dodd's used to live there and he killed his wife in the haunted house. He killed himself too. Next, Mr. Bates moved into the haunted house and then he killed his children in the bedroom because the ghost told him to. Darren's mother cleans the house for Mr. Bates and she heard lots of noises and things breaking. Alan's sister said the house is not haunted and then she got dared to go into the haunted house. Later she went in and never came out again. I thought the book was great. I liked it and all my friends would like it too.



**By Jemma Bayley, 2nd Year Student,
Larkin Community College**

Twilight – author *Stephanie Meyers*

Twilight is a great book that I would recommend to any teenager. It is a very easy book to like, as it combines many different things such as romance and fantasy, so it appeals to many types of readers. The story is that of teenager Bella Swan a newcomer in the small town of Forks and of Edward Cullen a mysterious boy at her new school. Bella was always interested in Edward but even more so when Edward miraculously saves her from getting crushed by a car. Ever since then Bella tries to discover Edward's secret but the closer she gets to the truth the more danger she puts herself in.

Fourth Horseman – author *Kate Thompson*

The *Fourth Horseman* is a good book, but is somewhat predictable. Even so it has many surprises hiding in the shadows. The story is of a girl whose father is working on a project to create a disease that will kill only grey squirrels but not the red so they have a better chance of survival. But who are the mysterious horsemen who appear at the lab? And why is the fourth without a rider?

Niall de Burca tells 'Jamebo' students how he works his magic

*"We wanted to interview Niall because we knew he was a deadly actor and storyteller and we wanted to find out more about him." **Stephen and Daniel***

Q *When did you start telling stories?*

A I started when I was a kid. I was on stage first when I was a little laddie. I used to just love getting up there. It started getting serious for me back in 1992- a long time ago now. 15 years ago it started getting serious. It became my job. I've been telling stories on the road ever since. You lads were born around 1992. I've been telling stories since before you were born!

Q *Why do you take up this job?*

A Because I love it. And here's a tip-if you find something you love you'll always make a living from it. And if you find something you love, you'll never work a day in your life because you'll be so happy doing it. That's my advice to you, boys. Find something you love doing and I guarantee you, you'll always make a living from it. Every day when I get up to go and tell stories I say - like today I was driving and I was looking at the fellows in the cars, I was looking at everyone on the bus -and I thought "I'm the luckiest man in Ireland." I'm meeting young people and there's always a buzz around them. You could see the young lads there in that last session; they were up for it.

Q *Is there a tradition of telling stories in your family?*

A The way I tell stories -it's just like my mother. You know the way I like lepping around. It's just like my mother describing a trip to the shop.

So, there was always a lot of energy about the house. My granny, too she used to get into the bed. She had a shawl, a black shawl. I used to get into the bed with her, with my cousin Annie. She'd be telling us stories in bed. We used to go to the graveyard too. I've a very young memory of going to the graveyard with her and she used to tell stories there. She used to scare the hair off me but something stuck.

Q *Is it hard to learn?*

A It's like anything - it's like playing soccer. If you love it you play it all the time and it's easy for you. So with storytelling I don't even think about it 'cos I'm doing it all the time. And it's not hard.

Q *Were you good at writing stories when you were in school?*

A I wasn't too bad at it. But to be honest with you, I always prefer telling them to writing them. Some people like reading books: some people like writing them. I like telling stories.

Q *Where do you get the ideas for your stories from?*

A All over the place. I was driving past Guinness brewery here today and I looked in and I could see the big silver vats- big, huge, silver vats. Steam was coming out of them and I thought "Wow-it would be good to tell a story about a fella and a mouse that fell into his Guinness". It would be good to set a horror story there, young fellas being chased through the vats. So the stories come from everywhere. They come from people too. Something might stick in my head. It might be an expression, it might be a line and I'll go off and use that..



Students Stephen Byrne, (14) and Daniel Kelly, (15) interviewed Niall de Burca during his visit to CBS James's St. last September.

Q *Are you worried if the audience doesn't laugh?*

A Some of my stories aren't funny. Some of them are very serious. Sometimes I tell stories that are sad. Sometimes I don't want people to laugh at all. Sometimes I tell a story and I want them to be scared. Sometimes I want people to go "Aah."

Q *Where's the best crowd you ever had?*

A Every crowd has a bit of magic to it. Like the last crowd a few minutes ago -they pulled up-their chairs; they were up for it; their eyes were shining. When you see that, it's the best crowd you can have. Every crowd has something special. I like Dublin crowds. They've great craic and great humour. I like crowds in Waterford, and Cork-they've all got their special humour. Every place in the country has something special about it.

Q *Do you prefer working in boys' schools or mixed schools?*

A Doesn't matter - tall, small old or young. It doesn't matter as long as there's an audience and people who want to listen to stories. If no one wanted to listen to the stories what would happen to those stories? They'd be gone forever..If all those stories went, we'd be all the poorer for it. Those stories have a lot of wisdom in them.

Q *Do you prefer working with adults or young people?*

A Young people. I love working with young people because I think it's very important that we pass on the old stories so that young people will have them. Then when they're older they can pass them on...

Q *Do you ever go to other countries to talk in schools or libraries?*

A I do go to other countries to talk in schools, in festivals and theat-

res. Last week I was in Belgium, in a place called Brussels. I did seven shows and I was wrecked, absolutely wrecked. Later in the year I'm going to Hamburg - for U.N. Day- and I'm going to Italy in January and to Portugal next March. Earlier this year I was in Hawaii. And they worked me hard there. I was just off the plane and they said "You only have three shows today". Imagine- I just travelled 24 hours to get there from Ireland. Wrecked I was.

Q *What language do you use when you are working abroad?*

A English, and then I use bits of Irish too because it's important. I love our language. I love the two languages we have here, English and Irish, so I try to use the two. Sometimes people in the audience go- "what did he say? Vot is zat strange word " Conas ta tu" or "why do you say Go raibh mile maith agat. What does that mean?" People are surprised that we have two languages here. Overseas nobody has a clue about Irish so you can say what you want.

Q *Do you prefer working in Ireland or abroad?*

A I love working in Ireland because working with Irish people is great fun. And I like working abroad because I get to see things in other countries.

Q *Do you use your family or people you know in your stories.*

A All the time. When I'm telling my stories my aunties and my uncles, my kids, and my cousins and people I meet are in there. Sometimes they'll be in the audience and they see me doing it and they'll just look at me.....

Q *Does your family like listening to your stories?*

A Yes they do. In fact my son, I'm training him up to be a storyteller. I tell him stories all the time. And also my mother and father. If I'm working on a new story, I'll just pop it out to them and they love that.

Q *What advice would you give to us students in James's St.?*

A I've got two bits of advice for you. The first bit I already gave you. Find something you love to do and you'll always be able to make a living from it. You'll never work a day in your life you'll be so happy doing it. The second piece of advice is about storytelling. Listen to the older folk around you. Sometimes they might be annoying you. But if you sit down and say to your father or your grandfather - "Tell us about when you were a young lad"; they'll have great stories about the community and about the characters. Tell them to your friends. Some night when you're watching a DVD turn it off when it's finished and say "C'mon, turn off the lights and share a couple of stories." You'll have great craic.

Q *Do you read a lot of books?*

A All the time. I'm a bookaholic. I love books. When I was at school I wasn't very smart at lots of subjects. But I tell you when I walked into the library I just went—yeah this is me. I feel there's a lot of wisdom in books. At night I do the "droolie dad" bit; you know falling asleep thing with a book, cos I love books.

Q *Who is your favourite writer?*

A My favourite is a fellow called John Steinbeck. He died about 40 years ago. Do you know why I love him? He wrote stories about the old days

but he made them feel as though they happened today. He was a simple writer, he'd do simple sentences - none of this fancy stuff. He built a brilliant story with simple sentences. I liked his style and I like the way he wrote. His books were the first set of books I ever bought when I was a grown-up because when I was young I couldn't afford them. At home now, I've a lot of books - sometimes I buy them, sometimes I get them for free. He's always there in the middle. Every couple of years I pull one of his stories and I say "Howya John." Books become like old friends.

Q *Are you interested in sport?*

A I coach with the GAA, a bit of football and a bit of hurling. I play a bit of football with the young fellow. If I played with people my own age I'd be a wheezing bag of wind. I love getting in the water. Did you ever hear of boogie boarding? I love boogie boarding but I'm scared of sharks. So when I'm boogie boarding I'm like a lunatic in the water. I love swimming; I love diving into the water and the feel of the water on my skin.

Q *What football team do you support?*

A Now lads, that's a loaded question. If I say "Liverpool", someone will say "Agh"---- or if I say "Chelsea", they'll say "huh" If I say "Man Utd." someone will go "C'mere!!!!". So I just say "Glasgow Celtic" and most people say: "aw, yeah They're my second team"

Stephen/Daniel *Thank you very much.*

Niall It's a pleasure to meet you.



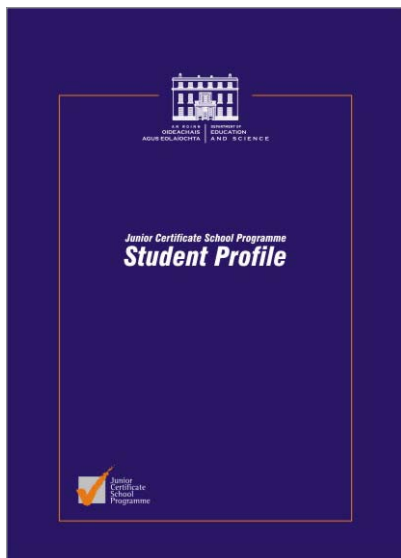
Students from St. Brigid's School in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

Profiling – Final Profiling

Final Profiling 2009

It's hard to believe that we're at this time of year again!! The deadline for Final Profiles is **Thursday April 2nd 2009**. It is also important to note that **no Final Student Profiles will be available to schools before Friday May 8th**. This is to facilitate the administration that is needed for Final Profiling.

We wish you the best of luck and please contact your link person on the JCSP support team if you have any difficulties.



Final Profiling - Step By Step

Step 1: Log In

Click here To Login

Enter Username and password here

Option 1: Log in using assigned username and password
 Username: test@school Password: ***** Login

Option 2: Have been assigned username, but don't know or have forgotten password
 Fill in the email you were registered with, and we'll send you instructions for logging in again.
 Email: [input field]

Step 2: Enter Student Profile

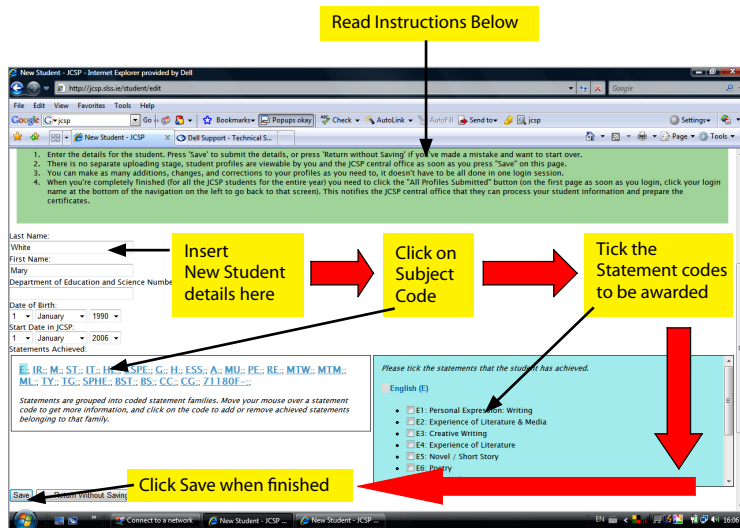
Click here to enter Student Profile

Click here to add New Student

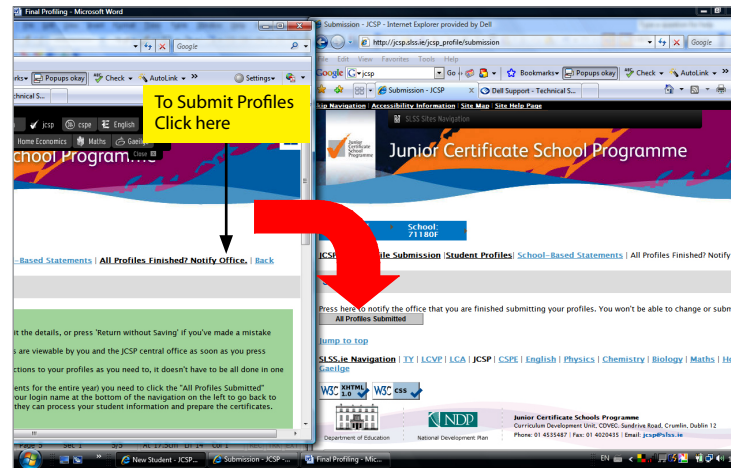
Enter Student name or id to find student already entered here

Student details and their profiles already entered appear here

name	dept ed. id	dob	start date	statements
Black, Joe		01/01/1990	01/01/2006	E1, E2, E3



- You can come back and edit all information you have entered and saved until such time as you submit profiles to JCSP office.
- Do not submit until you are satisfied that all information is correct.
- Once you submit you can no longer edit.



Please Note:

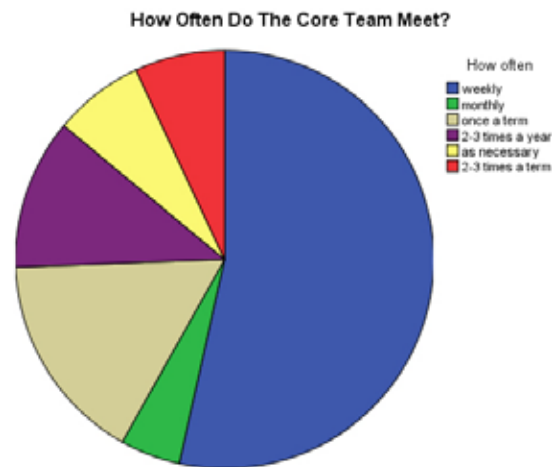
It is important at this stage to print a copy of the Final Profiles for your records.

JCSP Profiling Meetings

The JCSP Support Service distributed a questionnaire to 86 JCSP co-ordinators at regional co-ordinators' meetings in Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Monaghan and Donegal. The aim was to explore the way in which schools participating in the Junior Certificate School Programme approach aspects of the JCSP in their school. One aspect that was explored was profiling meetings.

Core Team in JCSP Schools

Co-ordinators were asked to indicate whether their schools have a core team. The majority of JCSP schools (61.5%) have a core team, with 79.5% stating that the core team meets regularly, with 53.5% meeting on a weekly basis.



Profiling and JCSP

Co-ordinators were asked to describe how profiling is organised in their schools. The following are some of their comments:

"We have 3 major profile meetings a year aimed at updating profiles. Teachers profile throughout the year with their own class groups"

"Team meeting is held where cross-curricular statements are discussed. The co-ordinator collects subject statements and organises them at a separate time to meeting."

"...I consult with the relevant staff and gather information required. Profiling meetings during the year often take place on staff days. They also take place in April for 3rd year students"

"Co-ordinator distributes folders to teachers at the start of the year and meets up with them from time to time during the year with a final profile meeting for all teachers involved with 3rd year"

Conclusion

In terms of how JCSP is run in the different school structures, the results are very encouraging. 61.5% of JCSP co-ordinators reported that their schools have a core team. An even greater proportion (75.9%) indicated that the core team meets. Finally, 53.5% of core teams meet on a weekly basis. Further findings of this survey will be produced on our website in due course. Additionally a short video clip will appear on our website that affords us an insight into profile meetings in one of our schools Arklow Community College. So keep an eye on the website for this.



Teachers at a profile meeting in Arklow Community College

Initiatives

There has been a tremendous response to the number of Initiatives schools have availed of this year. For your perusal on the next few pages we have brought you a flavour of the many different initiatives that are going on around the country.

Reading Corner in St. Oliver's Community College - Drogheda

The JCSP Literacy Strategy is alive and well in St Oliver's Drogheda with Jane Gibney as Co-ordinator. The First Years are well advanced in their



A Collection of Photographs from the Reading Corner in St. Oliver's Community College, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

reading laboratory work and are really enjoying the success it is bringing as well as the advancement through this well structured programme. They are to move onto a Readalong project once this is completed.

The Second Years are busy preparing for Make A Book with a project 'Hidden Treasures' well advanced. We can look forward to a treasure box with beautiful woodwork and art involved. Here we have students enjoying the Reading Corner now well stocked by Jane Gibney and Jemma O'Hart. A good read on the beanbags is a great way to relax in a busy school day.

Reading Corner in Arklow Community College



Celebrity Chef in Arklow Community College

Students enjoyed the company of Celebrity Chef Conor Spacey, former student of the College who was trained in London. Conor entertained Princess Di, Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg, Chris Ree and indeed the Queen of England herself. Conor regularly cooks for celebrities, actors and musicians. He runs a consultancy company designing, opening restaurants, and training chefs for new restaurants. In the College over a period of a number of weeks Conor brought a new flavour to the Junior Certificate Course for this group of 3rd years. They tasted food they had never seen before and cooked delicious dishes they never thought possible.

Fidelma Downes, their Home Economics teacher feels that Conor may indeed have inspired some young men in the class to seeing this as a career for themselves....maybe we'll be inviting them back in years to come as part of the JCSP Celebrity Chef initiative!



Abbey Community College Christmas Celebrations

Mr Niall de Burca was the star attraction of the Junior Certificate School Programme Christmas Celebrations which took place in Abbey Community College on Friday 12th December.

Mr de Burca is a professional storyteller and he had his young audience in the palm of his hand as he told them some great stories without the aid of props. Mr de Burca is one of Ireland's foremost storytellers and has been doing work in schools the length and breadth of the country for many years.

Two storytelling sessions were held in the library and each lasted one hour. As well as entertaining the students, the sessions were also important in helping to promote the concept of books and storytelling to the students. Before each storytelling session, students were also treated to a hip hop dance session from some of the other students in the school.

Once the storytelling sessions were over, Mr. Tommy Tyrrell, the Principal, presented a number of students with prizes for achievements in 'Digital Storytelling' and in 'Reading Challenge', two initiatives which have been running in the school since September.

The storytelling and the awards took place to help celebrate the achievements of all students who take part in the Junior Certificate School Programme.

Stephen Doherty, JCSP Librarian.

Larkin Community College Christmas Celebrations

Our First year students enjoyed their Christmas Celebration in Larkin Community College just before the holidays. For the morning wonderful smells drifted from the Home Economics room as cakes and cookies were made.

Certificates of Achievement were then awarded to students by the JCSP team, class tutor and Principal, Mr. Noel O'Brien. Each student got a certificate for individual achievements while four students who made a consistent effort were presented with book tokens. Following the presentations and photos the goodies created by our excellent chefs quickly disappeared.

The JCSP Team have organised other events to look forward to in 2009, linked to the many initiatives they are undertaking this year.

Niall De Burca will visit the library for storytelling. A Celebrity Chef will be in later this month to amaze with his skills. There will be a trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre for Third Years in February.

Other events include hill walking and rock climbing for the First Year groups, gardening as part of the Science Box Initiative with the Second Years, Irish posters and our Irish morning during "Seachtain na Gaeilge" and an Irish quiz at lunchtime in the library.

Jenny Mangan, Librarian.



Students preparing buns for the Christmas Celebration



Students showing off their Certificates of Achievement following their Presentation at the Christmas Celebration

JCSP Christmas Celebration 2008 in Moyne College Ballina, Co. Mayo

In Moyne College there was a great Junior Certificate School Programme celebration for Christmas on Friday 12th December 2008. Teachers, students and parents came together to celebrate the great work and achievements of the students since September.

Maura Flynn, JCSP Co-ordinator took great pleasure in welcoming the proud parents to join in the celebration. The teaching team were delighted to present individual students with Certificates of Achievement in the areas of Maths, English, Irish and Science. There were also awards in Cross Curricular areas for Homework, Independent Work and Punctuality. Photographs were taken of the event.

Following the presentation of certificates everyone enjoyed refreshments. This gave the parents an opportunity to chat with staff and students.

Sincere gratitude and appreciation was extended to Terry Mc Cole, Principal for his support of the programme, to Maureen Gannon, HSCLC and to the teachers of the programme Katie Healy, Una Casserly, Ann Marie Boyle, Jackie Langan, Michelle Jordan and Emer Connor for their hard work in delivering the programme.

Congratulations and well done to the students - keep up the good work.



Ms Ferris, Mr Cafferty and second years Home Economic class with their certificates of achievement for the creation of a DVD on how to make an apple tart.



Mr Mc Cole, Principal and Ms Flynn, JCSP coordinator and teacher with students from the second year English class who were awarded for the completion of statement number six based on poetry.



Students with parents and teachers at their celebration night in Moyne College.



Ms Flynn, Ms Healy and Mr McCole with the second year maths class who were awarded for perfect punctuality



Ms Flynn, Mr McCole, Ms Langan and first year English class awarded for the statement on responding to a film.



Proud students and parents at the Celebration night in Moyne College



Ms Flynn, Ms Casserly, Mr McCole and third year science experts awarded for their completion of an investigation statement.



Ms Flynn, Mr McCole, Ms Jordan with award winning first and third year Irish students.

Meanscoil San Nioclás



Scoláirí ó Meanscoil San Nicolás, An Rinn, Port Láirge ag léamh litreacha a fuair said ó scoláirí McSwiney Colege, Corcaigh mar chuid den Twinning Initiative.

Mc Hale College, Tuam, Co. Galway

Students from Mc Hale College, celebrated their Christmas Initiative with great style. Students received certificates of achievement and performed with their Music teacher Ms. Burke. Many parents were also in attendance.



Summer Celebration Initiative

It is hard to believe but it is time to start thinking about organising the summer celebration. This is an opportunity to display students' work, to share the activities, projects and success of the school year. By presenting awards to students and celebrating their achievements we hope to help them approach the Junior Certificate exams with confidence.

As a positive occasion it attracts many parents to visit their children's schools to participate in a very positive occasion.

There is a small subvention available to schools to help meet the cost of hosting a Summer Celebration.

To apply please complete the fax reply form below and return to 01 4020435 by Tuesday March 31st 2009.

Please include any further information which you feel is relevant.

Fax Reply – JCSP Summer Celebration Initiative 2009

JCSP Fax: 01 4020435

School: _____

Principal: _____

Co-ordinator: _____

Outline of Proposal:

Proposed Implementation Date: _____

We will furnish an evaluation report: _____

Signature Principal: _____

Signature JCSP Co-ordinator: _____

Pilot Project in Maths and Reading

Piloting of "Accelerated Maths Project" and "Accelerated Reader Project"

This pilot is on-going in 15 schools and here is a flavour of what the projects involve.

The "Accelerated Maths Project" is an interactive ICT programme that supports the development of enhanced mathematical and numerical understanding in participating students. The "Accelerated Maths" programme has been successfully implemented in second level schools in the United States and in the United Kingdom.

The "Accelerated Maths Project" offers the following potential and benefits:

- Enables the teacher to personalise Numeracy and Maths teaching by creating personalised Maths assignments for students to practise and carry out. These assignments are directly tailored to each student's ability level. When the student has finished an assignment, he/she transfers the answers to an optical reader card (similar to a lottery card) and scans it using the Accelscan Reader. The student can also input his / her answers by using a handheld electronic responder. The system automatically and immediately marks the worksheet or inputted data and produces a diagnostic and progress report for the student. Each student then discusses his/her results with the teacher. When required, the Accelerated Maths programme will produce the next worksheet for the student based on

how well he/she did in the previous assignment. If the student's answers are correct, the difficulty gradient of the next worksheet is increased; if the student gets questions wrong, the difficulty level is automatically reduced.

- Enables the teacher to diagnose problem areas in Maths and Numeracy and will identify those students who require individual help
- Enables the teacher to identify and determine the appropriate level of challenge in Mathematics for each student
- Provides students, at all levels of ability, with valuable practice in written and mental computation
- Eliminates paperwork and record-keeping tasks.
- Enhances and increases student motivation to practise and improve Maths skills
- Provides teachers with a range of informative reports: class progress reports, individual student progress and diagnostic reports and progress reports for parents

The "Accelerated Maths Project" is being piloted in four JCSP schools during 2008/2009:

- St. Colman's Community College
- Beech Hill College
- Carndonagh Community School
- Loretto College, Crumlin

Piloting of "Accelerated Reader Project"

Like the Accelerated Maths the Accelerated Reader Project is an interactive ICT programme that supports students with reader development. Quite simply students read every day, after which they go on line to quiz their book. The programme has already proven itself to be successful in the UK and in the US.

There are currently 11 schools in the JCSP network that are participating in the Accelerated Reader Project. Site licences and training have been provided to the schools through a UK based company Renaissance Learning. To date all schools have reported that the project is running well and students are engaged with it.

An information meeting, for schools participating in the Accelerated Maths and the Accelerated Reader projects, took place in the Curriculum Development Unit on Thursday 27th November. Representatives from Renaissance Learning were in attendance.

Accelerated Reader is a 'book hungry' programme and there is an initial set-up phase during which the computer teacher in school is fundamental. Once the soft-ware has been down-loaded and the set-up phase is complete students can get on with the tasks of reading and quizzing. The initial responses from the eleven schools have been very positive.

For the students involved their starting point with Accelerated Reader is to take a reading test called *Star Reads*, which provides the student's baseline. From this point books are selected based on the student's zone of proximal development. Their ZPD allows for a range of reading material to be selected that the student will be competently able to handle on his or her own. Independent reading is not essential for the programme but students who are not in this category do need other supports to be put in place.

Through a series of data that the programme provides teachers can monitor the progress that individual students are making with their reading. With each quiz taken the student's score is recorded. Students are encouraged to try and score at least 85% or better. Students who consistently score below this are then very closely monitored by teacher/s to ensure that they receive the necessary support to improve that score.

Students who consistently score above 90% progress to the next reading level. Quizzes are available for a vast number of books. Quizzing ensures that students are developing their reading comprehension along with practising their reading skills. Books are perhaps less plentiful for the cohort who are at the lowest ZPD levels. There is a facility to have quizzes devised for particular books – but this can take up to three months.

There are 11 schools involved in the Accelerated Reader Pilot Project to date; these are:

- Arklow Community College
- CBS, James Street
- Coláiste an Chraoibhín
- Collinstown Park Community College
- Ennis Community College
- Enniscorthy Vocational School
- Galway Community College
- Largy College, Clones
- Larkin Community College
- St. Laurence's Special School, Finglas
- Tallaght Community School

In some of the schools it is the JCSP Librarian who is leading the pilot while in others it is a combination of JCSP Co-ordinators and other interested teachers from the JCSP team. One of our Librarians has said that: "Over the last 4 months since we began using Accelerated Reader software in the library, a group of 40 first year students has read and done quizzes on 425 books. Students are very keen to take quizzes and view their achievements online and are highly motivated to read more and more."

All groups have noted that it does encourage the students to read. While in a number of schools they are combining the Accelerated Reader Project

with other JCSP Reading Initiatives such as *Who Wants to be a Word Millionaire*, *Reading Challenge*, *Paired Reading* and *Readalong*.

We eagerly await the findings at the end of the year. We wish all involved continued success with the "Accelerated Maths Project" and "Accelerated Reader Project".

Library Activities

This section will give you a little flavour of some of the activities going on in the JCSP Demonstration Library Project throughout the country.

Minister visits JCSP Library in Cork, January 2009

Mr. Batt O’Keeffe, TD, Minister for Education, took time out of his busy schedule to visit the JCSP Library in Cork. The students from Terence MacSwiney Community College were on their best behaviour for the Minister’s visit. The Minister chatted with the students as they displayed their e-books and computer skills. They then presented the Minister with a JCSP calendar and a ‘Stars Read’ folder. Minister O’Keeffe was very impressed by the student’s achievements.

Anne Masterson, JCSP Librarian



Dylan Brocklebank, Craig Ryan, Minister Batt O’Keeffe, Corey Thompson and Dean O’Keeffe



Dean O’Keeffe, Corey Thompson, Heather Keane, Craig Ring, with Minister Batt O’Keeffe



Ted Owens, Dylan Brocklebank, Batt O’Keeffe, Helen Ryan (principal), Dean O’Keeffe, Corey Thompson, Craig Ring

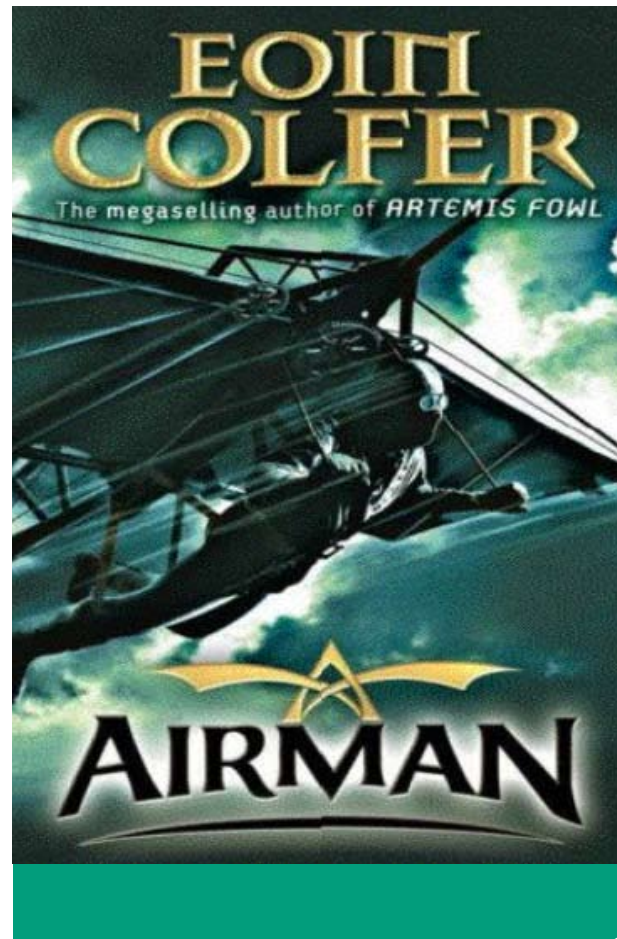
Book Review: *Airman* by Eoin Colfer

Eoin Colfer has enjoyed huge success with the fantastic Artemis Fowl series. *Airman* is a departure from the land of fairies, trolls, hi-tech gadgetry and magic, but it is arguably his best book to date. Set in the 19th century on the diamond rich, independent Kingdom of Great Saltee, off the coast of Ireland, *Airman* is a fast paced adventure story involving, betrayal, revenge and invention with a smattering of teenage romance and man's race to master flight. Along the way we meet Kings and Princesses a French aviator, a blind American composer, Dark Knights and Private Armies. *Airman* is a classic tale of the unending struggle between good and evil and is a hugely entertaining read from start to finish

Fourteen year old Conor Broekhart, the books hero, is framed for the murder of King Nicholas and condemned to a life of misery working in the diamond mines of Little Saltee prison. It is here; amidst horrendous cruelty that Conor befriends Linus Wynter, a blind American musical composer and former spy for the murdered King. Linus teaches Conor how to survive in the prison and also inspires him to plot his escape and have his revenge. The story quickly gathers pace from this point amidst a flurry of sword fights, invention, intrigue, honour, revenge and ultimately victory and reconciliation.

Eoin Colfer has an uncanny ability to write books that children are unable to put down and the *Airman* is no exception.

Ciaran O'Doherty, JCSP Librarian, Patrician College, Finglas



Induction of new JCSP Librarians

In November 2008 fourteen new librarians joined JCSP. The group was welcomed to the Demonstration Library Project by Lynda O'Toole, Senior Inspector, Department of Education and Science in the Curriculum Development Unit. Lynda noted the significance of the project within the Department under DEIS. There are now 30 JCSP libraries in place nationwide.

Congratulations to all of the librarians on their appointment.

School

Coláiste Chathail Naofa, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford
 Coláiste Eoin, Finglas, Dublin 11
 Jobstown Community College, Tallaght, Dublin 24
 Larkin Community College, Dublin 1
 Marino College, Fairview, Dublin 3
 Patrician College, Finglas, Dublin 11
 Mount Carmel Secondary School, Dublin
 Plunket College, Whitehall, Dublin 9
 Riversdale Community College, Dublin 15
 St. Aidan's Community College, Tallaght, Dublin
 St. Kevin's College, Crumlin, Dublin 12
 St. Paul's CBS, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7
 Trinity Comprehensive School, Ballymun, Dublin 9
 Wexford Vocational College, Wexford

Librarian

Jessica Whelan
David Mohan
Michelle Touhey
Jenny Mangan
Kate O'Flaherty
Ciaran O'Doherty
Aislinn Conway
Marie Barrett
Orla O'Sullivan
Ailish Larkin
Heather Tennant
Annie Brady
Joseph Brady
Lee Dickerson



Lynda O'Toole, Senior Inspector, DES, Aideen Cassidy and Bernie Kiely with the newly appointed librarians at their induction meeting in November

Animal Magic visit Coláiste Dhúlaigh Library

A great time was had by students and staff on Friday December 19th when Animal Magic visited. Even the principal Mrs. Mary Ward made time to drop in on the action.

Students are afforded opportunities to look at the animals and to learn about them. On the day there were a whole variety of animals for students to inspect: an owl, a skunk, a snake and a tortoise to name but a few.

Animal Magic can be contacted at:

Tel: 063 98777

Mobile: 087 6243546

www.animalmagic.ie



Staff and students in the Library in Coláiste Dhúlaigh with the animals from Animal Magic

Being the new kid in school . . . Beaufort College Library

Having changed schools 3 times as a child; the prospect of walking into another new school as at this stage of my life didn't unduly worry me. I had established and subsequently ran the JCSP Library in Larkin Community College, in Dublin City Centre, for six happy, busy years. When Beaufort College in Navan learned that it was to get a new JCSP Library in this third phase of expansion under DEIS, I decided the circumstances were right for me to transfer and start all over again. So I left Larkin, secure in the knowledge that it was in the expert hands of one Ms Jenny Mangan.

I became the new kid in school in November 2008! As you can see from the photo, the designated library room is currently some way from the high quality, inviting library space that we have come to expect from the Demonstration Library Project. But on the plus side, it is a good size and has great potential. Over the next few weeks it will be transformed with new lighting, furniture, carpet, shelving, IT and of course, thousands of books. That's when the real work will begin.

Beaufort College has run the JCSP Reading Challenge over the past number of years. What you'll notice as soon as you come into the building are the countless photos in the corridors of reading celebrations and award ceremonies for students and their families. When you talk to students here about books, it is clear that this programme has had a significant impact. This strong foundation means that Beaufort College is already primed to

have a successful, busy library at the heart of the school community.

So watch this space . . . I'll keep you posted!

Eileen Mc Dermott, JCSP Librarian.

We wish all the new libraries every success during their 'setting-up' phase.



The space in Beaufort College, Navan, that will transform over the next few weeks into a Library

Storyteller visit to St. Kevin's Community College

To celebrate intercultural month at St Kevin's Community College, Fonthill Road, Clondalkin, storyteller Niall de Burca visited the school on 5th December last. The day was a great success and all students really enjoyed the stories, which focused on cultural diversity on this occasion. The sessions were held in the school library. At the end, Niall also presented certificates of achievement to some JCSP students who had successfully completed a Reading Challenge in the library during the month of November.



Niall de Burca with some second and third year students



Niall de Burca poses for a photo with first year students

Galway Community College Library

The school participated in the "One Book, One City" which was run in Galway in November 2008.



Habib Bello, reading from *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*

Comic Books and Literacy Development

Either graphic novels are becoming more widely appreciated and accepted or people have just become more used and better able to humour the librarian from Bray who is into Batman.

I'd hope it was the former but maybe I've become so intent on the message I just see what I want to see; another Blockbuster movie based on a comic book, the rise and rise of Manga (especially among girls) or more articles out there on the value of comics. Like this one.

While these indicators are all true it recently occurred to me that actually there's nothing new about comics and it seemed quite odd that I even have to argue that they are a helpful resource in encouraging reading and wider literacy.

Thinking back, I always read comics. Even before 'graphic novels' I always read comics. *The Beano* and *The Dandy* (and several other titles) were always around. I'd read one, my brother would read one; the kids in the street would read one. Then we'd all swap.

Given that *The Beano* and *The Dandy* both had circulation figures of around the 2 million mark at their peak in the 1960s then this informal theory of 'swapsies' would represent a lot of reading time; mostly by children. And there were others too; *The Eagle* had over a million readers per week in the 1950s and at a lecture for the Reading Association of Ireland last year speaker Dr. Mel Gibson pointed out that *Jackie* and *Bunty* had similarly high circulation figures. Yes, girls read comic strips too.

Comics are not a new trick to get kids reading. They're a tried, tested and popular form of reading that somewhere along the line has been lost or at least diminished. Possibly the use of the term 'graphic novel' and the uncertainty of what they are hides this prevalence of reading with pictures. I've found that asking people if they have 'read a graphic novel' usually results in a blank look whereas asking 'did you read comics as a kid' can lead to someone enthusing about golden innocent days reading *Desperate Dan* or *The Bash Street Kids*. And given the chance many kids, will still engage with a comic book.

Benefits with reluctant readers

As a JCSP Librarian I spend a lot of time 'selling' books to kids: trying to convince them that not every book on the shelf is boring and that in fact they might even enjoy some of them. At the risk of sounding lazy, comic books are a much easier sell (once you've got the teachers on board); the bright, slick comic book immediately destroys all pre-conceptions of, boring books'.

Similarly, while we all judge a book by its cover to some degree, this is probably truer of the reluctant reader. Here the graphic novel or comic book will beat the novel every time. Comic books are, generally, expensive. Not only is the cover going to be dynamic so is every other page in the book. They can feel like a quality product, they have colour all over, there is immediate action to appreciate. Perhaps this slick style is best exemplified by Marvel comics and their 'ultimate' collection.

Comic books often also come with free advertising. Every time a new *Xmen* or *Batman* movie appears it comes with a barrage of advertising; expensive, glitzy, big budget advertising. It's on prime time, on MTV, on internet sites and in magazines. As much work as I might put into my Library displays I am just not going to have the same impact. Additionally there a number of film or TV tie-ins to comics that offer an immediate draw to otherwise reluctant readers. The Simpsons range of comic books is immensely popular across the JCSP Libraries.

Benefits with struggling readers

I think that one of the most difficult aspects of working in literacy is remembering that your own experience of reading isn't necessarily relevant. Most librarians, like most English teachers, enjoy reading. Fear of reading never registered.

However, a comic book can offer a less intimidating way to read. Consider the superheroes as modern fairy tales; they have a timeless, familiar and so comfortable quality. It feels like I've always known the story of Cinderella, or Snow White and the Seven Dwarves or Sleeping Beauty. They have become common culture. Similarly, it feels like I have always known that Spiderman was a teenager that got bit by a spider. That Superman landed on Earth from Krypton, or that Batman became Batman after watching his parents being killed as a child.

And while you know the stories you still read them. Like fairy tales these stories have been told and re-told and delivered in whatever medium was available. This is a huge draw for the struggling reader. They are less likely

to be intimidated given that they know the story and also know that they will enjoy it.

Size is also important. Reluctant and struggling readers will typically vet a book by its size; anything too big is instantly cast aside and one of the big challenges is to find that title that will sustain interest. Comic strips (such as collected volumes of *Garfield* or *Calvin and Hobbes*) negate this. The book may be big and each strip may be part of a continuum but there is always a short snappy element of near instant gratification.

Comics are especially useful for visual learners. Kids raised on MTV, multi-media and broadband are going to be used to visual imagery. Comics are a way of drawing in students to the written word and offering visual clues. Allowing the art work to tell some of the story also allows the text to become more interesting to the struggling or reluctant reader. These readers are generally not interested in long abstract descriptions of scenery and environment (Thomas Hardy is out..). Dialogue and action are generally what appeals and this is what comics do best.

Of course the balance of text to pictures can vary greatly. Some titles can be text rich and at the other extreme some may contain no words at all. Recently I have got great mileage out of a title with no words; *Mister Amperduke* by Bob Byrne. The absence of words on the page allows students to put their own vocabulary in, either through group reading or a writing exercise or a class discussion with key words.

Comics and wider reading

It is worth realising that pretty much any topic you care to think of has been covered within the pages of a comic book; comics are a medium not a genre. Superheroes are a great means of attracting readers, especially boys, but there's a lot more available and it's possible to use comics across the curriculum and address any number of topics.

Any article on comics has to mention *Maus*, the Pulitzer prize winning account of the Holocaust. However, it is a very powerful piece of writing and deserves the biggest possible audience. Similarly, Joe Sacco's *Palestine* is another work of non-fiction which offers a new look at a terrible tragedy.

More recently a number of titles have been produced specifically for use in education. There are non-fiction titles on historical figures, ancient history and mythology. A number of classic titles from literature have been given a graphic novel makeover too ranging from gothic horror (*Dracula*, *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*) to *Manga* adaptations of Shakespeare. These could prove a great resource if you're struggling to get the joy of olde English across to a crowd of non-readers.

Perhaps the point about comics that most gets missed is just this: they are a way (among many other ways) of getting kids to read. Anecdotally, I do not see kids who 'just' read comics. A child who reads a comic and finds enjoyment is more likely to try other reading. It's not 'just a comic', it's an expression of reading for pleasure. And that represents a victory.

Recommendations to get you started:

Non-fiction

The complete Maus – **Art Spiegelman**

The story of Vladek Spiegelman's survival of Auschwitz and the first comic to win the Pulitzer prize. Using the metaphor of cat and mouse for German and Jew this work is the most shocking account of the Nazi regime available in any medium and should be required reading for every school child.

Palestine – **Joe Sacco**

Joe Sacco spent two months living in Palestine during the first Intifada and has used the graphic novel to capture the experience of everyday Palestinian existence, from the mundane and trivial to unflinching accounts of a war zone.

Persepolis – **Marjane Satrapi**

The memoirs of Marjane Satrapi's childhood in Iran during the Islamic revolution have won enormous critical praise. Satrapi offers an alternative view of Iranians: normal people trying to live their lives in a nation where the political begins to infringe on the personal. And a coming of age story which girls especially might relate to.

Boys

Ultimate Spiderman/X-Men/Fantastic 4/Hulk

Marvel comics have recently given all their major characters a major overhaul. These are the same classic stories that you know – how Spiderman got his powers, how the X-Men got together – but set in a contemporary world and with high impact art. They all look great and you're buying established, proven stories.

Queen and Country – Greg Rucka

Girls

A Tale of One Bad Rat – Bryan Talbot

Older Teens

The Sandman – Neil Gaiman and various artists (10 volumes)

To attempt to summarise the Sandman in a paragraph is foolhardy, mixing as it does popular culture, folklore, fairy tales, Shakespeare, religion and Gaiman's own creation, the Endless. A high point of both comics and of fantasy writing in general if I was to only ever read one story again it would be this one

The Watchmen – Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons

Arguably the most important comic of the last 50 years The Watchmen re-defined superheroes and made comics something that could be read by post adolescents.

America has won the Vietnam War, Nixon avoided Watergate and the U.S has the only genuine superhero, a walking H-bomb called Dr. Manhattan. A social commentary, a deconstruction of superheroes, a look at popular culture and story telling...a truly gripping read.

The Dark Night Returns – Frank Miller

Before Sin City and 300 Miller redefined Batman and rescued him from the campiness of the Adam West T.V programme. Here Bruce Wayne is nearing his 60s and comes out of retirement to answer Gotham's call. Dark, disturbing, violent this is Batman as he was meant to be.

References and further reading:

Graphic Novels: suggestions for librarians

Prepared by The National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC), The American Library Association and The Comic Book Legal Defence Force.

www.ncac.org/graphicnovels

Provides a brief history of the graphic novel along with advice on library issues: how to start a collection, cataloguing, promotion and dealing with complaints or challenges to the stocking of graphic novels.

The NCAC also posts news on challenges to library stock of all mediums.

Graphic Novels for your school or library

Diamond Comic Distributors

<http://bookshelf.diamondcomics.com/>

Diamond distributors have a virtual monopoly on the distribution and sales of comic books to independent comic stores; until recently this gave them a monopoly on the entire industry, something that is only beginning to change as mainstream publishers and retailers begin to enter the market. It is still the case that Diamond's sales figures are a barometer for the industry.

This collection of three pdf documents set out how to start a collection, recommended titles according to age groups and even lesson plans with comic books for those involved in teaching or the school library.

No flying No tights

www.noflyingnotights.com

Created by librarians from Massachusetts this regularly updated site has an extensive review section of graphic novels categorized by genre and age appropriateness. Also contains a glossary, FAQs, index and blog.

Understanding Comics

By Scott McCloud

Scott McCloud is a comic creator; here he uses the comic medium to produce a book on the nature of comics, how they work, their potential, the state of the industry, why they seem stuck in a superhero rut and the problems that this creates.

Chris Stokes, JCSP Librarian, St. Kilian's Community School, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

JCSP Library Project Launches

The JCSP Demonstration Library Project continues to expand with the launch of 4 more Project libraries over the past few months.

Kylemore College

Mr. Declan Mac Daid, Principal, Ms. Deidre Nolan, Deputy-Principal, Mr. Stephen Mc Carthy, Education Officer and representing CDVEC, CEO Ms. Jacinta Stewart, joined with the assembled students, staff, parents, guests and members of the JCSP support team to watch Ballyfermot native and RTE personality Joe Duffy launch the library in Kylemore College, Ballyfermot. Joe enthralled the large audience of students, staff and visitors with witty and entertaining tales of his childhood in the Ballyfermot area.



Staff of Kylemore with the JCSP Team and representatives of the Librarians from the Demonstration Project enjoying the launch in Kylemore College

He spoke of the importance of books and reading and encouraged the students to make the most of the wonderful new library facility that was now available to them. School librarian Joseph Peelo arranged a slide show of photographs of the transformation of the library space from 2 very ordinary classrooms to a wonderful library which is already and will continue in the future to enhance the educational experience of all students in the school.



Richard Carolan and Sean Barrett with Joe Duffy at the Library Launch



JCSP Librarian Joe Peelo with Joe Duffy

Killinarden Community School

Local author Martina Murphy cut the ribbon on the new JCSP Project library in Killinarden Community School in Tallaght. Martina had worked as Writer in Residence in the new school library and spoke of the energy and enthusiasm of the students and their obvious enjoyment and appreciation of this new facility in their school.

Aideen Cassidy, National Co-ordinator of the JCSP Programme, thanked all involved for the wonderful work that had been done to bring this new facility to its current high standard and acknowledged the huge contribution that it would make to the operation of the JCSP Programme within the school.



Ms. Bernie Keily, Assistant National Co-ordinator, JCSP, Mr. John Fennell, Principal, Ms. Kathleen Moran Senior Project Librarian, Ms. Martina Murphy, Author, Ms. Helen McMahon, JCSP Librarian, Ms Pauline Mc Govern, JCSP Co-ordinator, & Ms. Aideen Cassidy, JCSP National Co-ordinator.



Students at the Library Launch with JCSP Co-ordinator Ms. Pauline Mc Govern

Guests were entertained by the school choir and were invited to view the exhibition of photographs of the local area which was on display. School librarian Helen McMahon together with JCSP Co-ordinator Pauline Mc-Govern already have a very wide programme of classes and activities in operation and the library is already very well established as a centre of learning within the school.



Staff enjoying the launch in Killinarden Community School

Mount Carmel Secondary School

Former student and current Miss Universe Ireland, Lynn Kelly, returned to Mount Carmel Secondary School in Kings Inn St. in Dublin to officially launch the new JCSP school library.

Principal Gerard Cullen and school Librarian Jane Bingham-Shee welcomed the assembled guests and spoke of the positive impact the new library was already having on the students in the school.

Bernie Kiely and Kathleen Moran from the JCSP Support Service spoke of the major impact that JCSP Project libraries were having at a national level and of how the new library in Mount Carmel, together with the other new libraries being set up under the current round of expansion would further enhance this positive impact going forward.



Students enjoying their time with Lynn Kelly, Miss Universe Ireland at the launch of the Library in Mount Carmel Secondary School.

Abbey Community College

Great excitement was generated in Abbey Community College in Wicklow when Mr. John Boyne, author of the best-selling book *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, officially opened the school's new state-of-the-art JCSP library.

The well-known author, who has been very busy travelling all over the world promoting the film version of his book, took time out to come down to Abbey Community College and perform the opening. As well as patiently posing for many photographs with students, staff and other guests, Mr. Boyne also signed copies of *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* that many of the students and guests brought with them for signing.



Mr. Dick Roche, TD, Minister for European Affairs, Mr. Tommy Tyrrell, Principal & Mr. John Boyne Author



Mr. Aidan Clifford, Director of the Curriculum Development Unit having his copy of *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* personally signed by author John Boyne. Students from Abbey Community College eagerly await their turn.

Among the speakers on the day were students, Emmet Goucher and Adam Caffrey, who spoke about their experiences writing the book on the history of Wicklow Gaol. Third year student, Frances Earley, also spoke about the 'Reading Challenge' programme recently held in the library. Librarian Stephen Doherty informed guests that the new library has over five thousand books, CD's, DVD's, magazines and newspapers.

After the speeches were completed and a plaque commemorating the opening was unveiled, the guests were treated to a reading from *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* by John Boyne. It was a fantastic moment for the school



Students with author John Boyne



Ms. Aileen Cassidy, National Co-ordinator with John Boyne, holding art work based on the novel: *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*

that, such a well-known children's book was being read by the author in the school's very own library. During the reading you could hear a pin drop as guests, staff and students listened intently to one of the book's most important passages being read out. After the reading, the author took questions from students.

The Guest of Honour for the launch was Mr Dick Roche, T.D. Minister for European Affairs. Other guests in attendance included, Ms. Fiona Hartley, CEO of Co. Wicklow VEC, Mr Michael Lawlor, Chairperson of Co. Wicklow VEC, The Mayor of Wicklow, Mr John O'Brien, Ms Aideen Cassidy , Natio-

nal Co-ordinator of the Junior Certificate School Programme, Ms Bernie Kiely, Assistant National Co-ordinator, Ms Kathleen Moran, Senior Project Librarian, Mr. Aidan Clifford, Director of the Curriculum Development Unit, Ms Liz McManus, T.D., Mr Andrew Doyle, T.D. and Ms Marie Fidgeon, recently retired JCSP Co-ordinator.

We wish all the newly launched libraries continued success.



Mary Clare Higgins and Statia Somers, JCSP Support Service with Caitriona Smith, JCSP Co-ordinator, Abbey Community College

Make A Book 2009 in Dublin and Cork

Make A Book 2009

Preparations are well underway for the Make a Book exhibitions in Dublin and Cork and from what we have seen and heard on our visits to schools there are very exciting books on the way. A few dates for your diaries:

Books for the Dublin Exhibition should be delivered to Curriculum Development Unit, Captain's Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12 by:

Wednesday 18th March.

This will give us a chance to plan the exhibition so that we can display all the books at their best. If you have special requirements regarding display for your books please let us know, get in touch with your contact person on the team. We can't promise that we'll display them exactly as you want, because there are over a 1,000 books to show, but we'll certainly do our best.

Books for the Cork exhibition only should be delivered to the Millennium Hall, City Hall on the morning of:

Monday 20th April.

Munster schools have the option of displaying books at both exhibitions. Books and exhibits from Cork schools attending both exhibitions will be transferred from Dublin to Cork.

If you are still planning your day at Make A Book check out the tips on the website: www.jcsp.ie.

Remember to LABEL EVERYTHING!

Looking forward to seeing you and your books in Dublin and Cork.



National In-service (September – December 2008):

Contained in the following pages are reports from the various in-services from last term. In some instances there are some website addresses that you may find useful in your subject area.

“Implementation Meeting for Principals and Co-ordinators New to JCSP”

Location: Curriculum Development Unit

Dates: Tuesday 9th September and Wednesday 10th September

Principals and co-ordinators, from the cohort of schools that joined the Programme in September 2008, attended this in-service in the Curriculum Development Unit. An overview of the Programme was provided and the first steps in initiating and implementing the programme were described and discussed.

Comhdháil Scoileanna na Gaeltachta

Ionad: Connemara Coast Hotel

Dáta: An Máirt, 16ú Meán Fómhair

Tháinig príomhoidí agus comhordaitheoirí ó scoileanna na Gaeltachta le chéile sa Connemara Coast Hotel le haghaidh Comhdháil na Scoileanna Gaeltachta CSTS (Clár Scoile an Teastais Shóisearaigh) i Meán Fómhair 2008. Rinne beirt comhordaitheoir, Áine Ní Dhonnabháin (Meánscoil San Nioclás, An Rinn) agus Róisín Ní Cheallaigh (Scoil Cuimsitheach Chiaráin, Ceathrú Rua) cur síos iontach ar an gclár go dtí seo ina scoileanna féin. Bhí Finbarr Gallagher, Comhairdaitheoir CSTS i bPobailscoil Carndonagh, i láthair agus thug sé tuairisc ar an réimse leathan de gníomhachtaí atá ar siúl sa scoil aige.

Sa tráthnóna bhí cur i láthair ag Maighrhead Duggan, Leabharlannaí Pobailscoil na Gaillimhe. Bhí Carmel Nic Eoin, SLSS Gaeilge, agus Muireann Ní Mhóráin, COGG, i láthair ag an gComhdháil ag tabhairt an-tacaíocht do forbairt an CSTS sna scoileanna Gaeltachta. Tá an CSTS an-buíoch do Údarás na Gaeltachta as ucht an deontas airgid a thugadh chun an Comhdháil a eagrú. Mar thoradh ar an la tá an CSTS ag tabhairt faoi aistriúcháin áiseanna. Tá forbairt Ráitis Gaeilge don córas próifiliú daltaí idir lámhe freisin. Táthar ag súil le scoileanna breise teacht isteach ar an CSTS sa bhliain 2009.



Co-ordinators and Principals at the Implementation Meeting in CDU on September 9th and 10th

A Whole School Approach to Literacy Development at Junior Cycle

There were three separate days across the country for literacy.

Locations: Limerick Education Centre Monaghan Education Centre

Dates: Thursday 18th September Monday 13th October

Location: Curriculum Development Unit

Date: Thursday 20th November

Each day afforded teachers the opportunity to share their ideas and to explore best practise in the area of literacy development. Tried and trusted classroom strategies to enable students to engage with the curriculum and their text books were outlined.

In Monaghan, Rory Callan from Ardee Community School explained how using Photostory 3 and Comic Life with his students broadened their experiences of reading, writing and presenting their ideas to each other.

In the afternoon, Tanya McCaffery, JCSP Co-ordinator and Michael Killen, HSCLC from Largy College in Clones demonstrated how their Book Reading Programme run in conjunction with the local library in Clones was organised and how successfully parents were involved in the programme. The material they used as part of the booklet given to students over the six week course of the reading programme will soon be available through the

JCSP website for you to use and adapt for your own schools.

In the Curriculum Development Unit, Chris Stokes, JCSP Librarian from St. Kilian's Community School in Bray enthralled us all with his love of graphic novels and why we should afford our students an opportunity to read them. There is an article from Chris in the Newsletter, with some recommendations for great reads, which you might like to look at!

In the afternoon, Nick Roche from Coláiste Eoin in Crumlin, explored the different websites that he found useful to develop and enrich students literacy experiences. A few of these include:

Topic	Website
Magnetic Letter Board	http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Games/mag/abc.html
Magnetic Word Board	http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Games/mag/board.html
Quizes	http://www.amblesideprimary.com/ambleweb/quiz.htm
Readalong Stories and Songs	http://rif.org/readingplanet/content/read_aloud_stories.msp
Dolch Word Lists	http://www.scoileoin.ie/Dolch/DolchComplete.pdf

“Developing Readers and Reading Spaces in your School”

Locations: Ambassador Hotel, Cork Kilkenny Education Centre
Dates: Monday 22nd September Thursday 2nd October

At these in-services teachers were introduced 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. Most teachers were using JCSP Initiatives to promote reading and fund appropriate reading materials, i.e. Reading Challenge, Paired Reading, Word Millionaire, Readalong, Drop Everything and Read (DEAR), Picture Books, and other reading interventions that schools devised themselves.

Check out the following websites for more information and ideas:

- www.childrensbooks.ie - book reviews, book events and author information
- 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.darrenshan.co.uk - author’s website

- www.cool-reads.co.uk
- www.ala.org./greatsites

- student reviews
- organised by the American Library Association and provides great websites for kids

“Making Digital Stories and Comics”

Locations: Cork Education Support Centre The Digital Hub, Dublin
Dates: Tuesday 23rd September Wednesday 24th September

Comic Life in Cork Education Support Centre was an oversubscribed and extremely popular in-service. We apologise to those teachers who could not be accommodated on the day and we hope to run this in-service again.

The tutor Willie McTiernan, guided the participants through the process of creating and producing a comic type booklet using digital photography. All participants produced a sample comic across a wide variety of topics and they were highly enthused about its application in the JCSP classroom.

A second day was hosted by the Digital Hub, in Dublin’s inner city and facilitated by Clifford Brown.

Check out the following websites for more information about digital story-telling:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Photo Story 3 can be downloaded for free at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.msp>



“Teaching Without Tears: Making Sense of Maths and Numeracy at Junior Cycle”

Locations: Curriculum Development Unit Castlebar Education Centre

Dates: Monday 29th September Monday 17th November

At this in-service, classroom strategies and approaches, that can be employed to support the teaching and learning of Numeracy and Mathematics at Junior Cycle, were described and demonstrated. Opportunities were provided for the course participants to engage with a range of experiential materials and Mathematics games and to evaluate their effectiveness and appropriateness for their Maths classroom.

At the September in-service, Jillian Byrne, Abbey Community College and Teresa Murphy, Plunket College made presentations on successful numeracy projects that had been undertaken in their schools.

“Home Economics and the JCSP”

Location: Ambassador Hotel, Cork

Date: Tuesday 30th September

Anna Marie Ryan, National Co-ordinator, Home Economics Support Service presented on the Junior Certificate Examination and introduced teachers to a variety of strategies including a “Who wants to be a Millionaire” type activity which can be differentiated and effectively used for revision.

Janet Dunphy, Coláiste Cathail Naofa, Dungarvan outlined in detail her cross-curricular approach to teaching Home Economics to JCSP students. She also highlighted a number of successful classroom strategies and the central role played by the Home Economics department in the annual Make A Book exhibition.

In the afternoon, Ann Barron, St Paul’s Community College, Waterford emphasised the accessibility of the craft project to the JCSP student and brought along a wonderful array of examples to demonstrate this. She also spoke about numerous strategies and techniques she uses in helping JCSP students gain maximum benefit in the Junior Certificate Home Economics written examination.

“Co-ordinators In-service”

Locations: Curriculum Development Unit Limerick Education Centre

Dates: Monday 6th October Tuesday 7th October

Locations: Sligo Education Centre Ambassador Hotel, Cork

Date: Wednesday 8th October Thursday 9th October

Locations: Drumcondra Education Centre

Date: Friday 10th October

These co-ordinators meetings were very well attended. The presentation on “Formative Feedback” was very well received at all the sessions. At the Ambassador Hotel, Cork David O’Mahony, JCSP Co-ordinator in Bishops-town Community School and Hazel Burke, JCSP Co-ordinator in Our Lady’s Travellers Training Centre described the many outstanding successes that the Programme has achieved in their schools.

In Drumcondra Education Centre Patricia Kelly, JCSP Co-ordinator from St. Paul’s CBS in Brunswick Street explained how she used a cross-curricular project with a particular class group. Patricia Glover, from the Technical Institute Ringsend, explained how various initiatives were mapped out throughout the year in the school with different year groups.

In Limerick Education Centre Marie Allen, Co-ordinator, Limerick School for the Deaf presented on cross-curricular work in the JCSP in her school.

She also detailed a cross-border project called Dissolving Boundaries in which students from Limerick linked with students in Omagh. As a result of research carried out on both sides of the border, they produced a book called “Are You Listening” which they displayed at Make A Book 2008. In this book they compared the services for the deaf in the two places and got some eye-opening results. Did you know that sign language in the North differs from that in the South? All present at the meeting received a copy of the book.

Colette Maher highlighted a range of activities undertaken by JCSP students in Galway Community College

“How to Run Initiatives”

Locations: Ambassador Hotel, Cork CDU
Sligo Education Centre

Date: Tuesday 14 th October

Insights on how to plan and run a successful JCSP initiative were provided at these in-services.

In the Ambassador Hotel, Eric Dunne-Magnier described a very successful initiative that was undertaken by the students of St. Kevin’s YEP, Cork.

In the CDU Patricia Kelly from St. Paul’s, CBS Brunswick Street impressed all with her portrayal of a cross-curricular initiative that was run in the school on the theme of the Egyptians.

The attendance at Sligo Education Centre included a good number of new Co-ordinators from the new schools in the North/West region. The expressions of interest in running Initiatives were very welcome and encouraging.



Teachers attending the in-service in Sligo Education Centre

“New Teachers”

Locations: Day’s Hotel Galway Curriculum Development Unit

Date: Thursday 16th October

Locations: Ambassador Hotel Donegal Education Centre

Date: Friday 17th October

Locations: Kilkenny Education Centre Navan Education Centre

Date: Monday 20th October

An overview of the Programme was provided to the course participants and the profiling process was described and discussed. Participants were given opportunities to discuss and share their experiences of the Programme to date.

At the Galway meeting a Maths Teacher new to JCSP commented on the Statements and Learning Targets as being very useful as lesson plans in his subject and that they represented good teaching practice.

“English and the JCSP”

Locations: Limerick Education Centre Sligo Education Centre
Dates: Tuesday 21st October Thursday 4th December

In Sligo Education Centre, teachers explored the possibilities for students with two novels: *Goodnight Mister Tom* and *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. We would like to thank Hilary Cantwell and Mai O’Keeffe from St. Paul’s Community College, Waterford for providing us with very useful material which they are currently putting into an on-line workbook. Their many pictures and ideas generated great discussion about using the novel.

The following websites may be useful:

http://www.oup.co.uk/oxed/secondary/english/rollercoasters/boy_in_the_stripped_pyjamas/http://www.ou

http://www.filmeducation.org/theboyinthestripedpyjamas/the_opening_best_friends_for_life.html

The former contains some nice ideas for developing different kinds of lessons with the material that is available, while the latter has some very useful key words to accompany the main characters in the novel. There is also an interview with the author John Boyne which again can make the whole experience of the novel very real for the students.

Della Meade from SLSS, gave the assembled teachers plenty of ideas for creative writing and for using film with JCSP English students. Her look at *The Bridge to Terabithia* was thoroughly engrossing, providing a framework that would enable students to explore film as a genre.



Della Meade, SLSS, working with English teachers on December 4th in Sligo Education Centre

“It’s the teachers that make the difference”

Location: Curriculum Development Unit

Date: Monday 10th November

At this in-service teachers explored motivation, feedback and formative assessment in JCSP through the Profiling system. Classroom strategies using questioning and the importance of wait time were explored.

Mary Gordon, Senior Psychologist with DES provided a workshop in the afternoon on Assessment, exploring its role and purpose and some of the issues surrounding it.

“Mind Mapping and Study Skills”

Location: Limerick Education Centre

Date: Thursday 13th November

The applications and dynamics of Mind Mapping were explained and discussed and Mind Mapping strategies, approaches and resources, to support teaching and learning, were identified and described. Ken Wickstone was the main presenter at this in-service. Jacqueline Holly (Abbeyfeale Vocational College) described a project that was undertaken in her school where Mind Mapping strategies and Graphic Organisers were used to enhance the learning environment



Teachers engaging with the techniques of Mind Mapping in Limerick Education Centre

“Gaeilge agus CSTS”

Ionad: Days Hotel, Gaillimh

Dáta: 21ú Samhain

Bíonn suim i gcónaí ag múinteoirí Gaeilge ar straitéisí agus modhanna múinte maidir le daltaí Clár Scoile an Teastais Shóisearaigh (CSTS). Ba léir go raibh an dúil céanna i measc an grúpa múinteoirí a d’fhreastal ar an in-seirbhís seo agus cuid acu a thaistil turas fada le bheith i láthair. Thug Nora D’Arcy, múinteoir Gaeilge i bPobalscoil na Gaillimhe, tuairisc an-bríomhar ar an mbealach a mheallann sí daltaí an CSTS i dtreo an ábhair. Bhain gach éinne an-taitneamh as an ngníomhaíocht agus as an mbeocht a bhí sa chur i láthair a thug Íde Ní Mhóráin, Seirbhís Tacaíochta Dara Leibhéal Gaeilge. Tá an Seirbhís Tacaíochta CSTS an-buíoch do Mairéad Duggan, Leabharlannaí Pobalscoil na Gaillimhe, as ucht an iarracht agus an dea-obair atá á dhéanamh aici ar son na Gaeilge taobh isitigh den JCSP Library Demonstration Project. Tá fáilte roimh smaointe le haghaidh inseribhís Gaeilge & CSTS amach anseo.

“Outdoor Activities and Cross Curricular Links”

Location: Enniscorthy Education Centre

Date: Monday 24th November

This in-service identified and described the many benefits and successes that can be achieved by developing and establishing outdoor activities and cross curricular approaches to support teaching and learning. Very interesting and engaging presentations were provided by Brian Keogh, Shielbaggan Outdoor Education Centre, by Lori Whitney and Stella Stafford from Wexford Vocational College and by Jennifer Byrne, JCSP Coordinator in Bunclody Vocational College.

“CSPE and JCSP”

Locations: Curriculum Development Unit Cork Education Support Centre

Dates: Thursday 25th November Friday 12th December

This in-service was collaboratively planned and designed with the CSPE Support Service. Eileen Gray and Eileen Coleman, Regional Development Officers in the CSPE Support Service, provided course participants with valuable in-sights into the various dimensions and strands of CSPE.

At the **Dublin** venue, Una Bennett presented on CSPE in Marino College, Fairview.

At the **Cork** venue, a very informative presentation was made by Ms. Irene Keating, North Presentation Secondary School.

Useful Contacts - Special Events

Name/Subject Area	Contact Details	Description
Animal Magic	Rosie Campbell, Deebert Cottage, Killmallock, Co. Limerick Tel: 063 98777, Mobile: 087 6243546 www.animalmagic.ie	Animal Roadshow
Niall De Burca	Tel: 01 4415452, Mobile: 085 141 7338 eolas@storyteller.ie / www.storyteller.ie	Story teller
Rhythm Riot Music	Thomas Duffy Mob: 087 233 5684 tom@rhythmriotmusic.com www.rhythmriotmusic.com	Part of the Brazilian Arts Network – Samba based in the South East
English Resources	http://www.oup.co.uk/oxed/secondary/english/rollercoasters/boy_in_the_stripped_pyjamas http://www.ou http://www.filmeducation.org/theboyinthestripe dpyjamas/the_opening/best_friends_for_life.html	Useful if doing the novel <i>The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas</i>
Reading Resources	www.childrenbooks.ie www.altents.ie www.ala.org/greatsites www.darrenshan.co.uk	Book reviews, book events and author information Site with links to musicians, writers, entertainers etc Organised by the American Library Association and provides great websites for kids Author's website

Numeracy Resources

<http://www.amblesideprimary.com>

<http://woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/math>

<http://www.scoileoin.ie/primaryresourcesites.html>

There are several useful resources here for:

Addition / Subtraction / Multiplication / Division / Time

Also have a section for mental Maths & virtual tangrams

Very useful for teaching time & shapes

Resources for teaching time

We thank Nick Roche in Colaiste Eoin for sending these in to us.

Junior Certificate School Programme Inservice Calendar Jan - Apr 2009

Meetings	Venues	Dates	Time
Co-ordinators meeting - Support for Co-ordinators in implementing the JCSP in school. Recent updates and new initiatives will be outlined. *Fully Approved for Substitution*	Sligo Ed Centre	Tuesday 3rd March	10.00 - 15.30
	Curriculum Development Unit	Thursday 5th March	10.00 - 15.30
	Cork Ed Centre	Friday 6th March	10.00 - 15.30
	Drumcondra Ed Centre	Monday 9th March	10.00 - 15.30
Planning and Policy development for the successful classroom. Countering Educational Disadvantage: Care in Our Schools. *Fully Approved for Substitution*	Curriculum Development Unit	Thursday April 2nd	10.00 - 15.30
Parallel Sessions Literacy and Numeracy Classroom Strategies that Scaffold Learning for the JCSP Student - These sessions are running back to back in the same venue			
Literacy	Limerick Ed Centre	Wednesday 4th March	19.00 - 21.00
Numeracy	Limerick Ed Centre	Wednesday 4th March	19.00 - 21.00
Literacy	Tralee Ed Centre	Monday 9th March	17.00 - 19.00
Numeracy	Tralee Ed Centre	Monday 9th March	19.00 - 21.00
Literacy	Thurles Ed Centre	Wednesday 18th March	19.00 - 21.00
Numeracy	Thurles Ed Centre	Wednesday 18th March	19.00 - 21.00
Literacy	Dingle Ed Centre	Wednesday 1st April	17.00 - 19.00
Numeracy	Dingle Ed Centre	Wednesday 1st April	19.00 - 21.00
Literacy	Wexford Ed Centre	Thursday 2nd April	19.00 - 21.00
Numeracy	Wexford Ed Centre	Thursday 2nd April	19.00 - 21.00
Literacy Classroom Strategies that scaffold learning for the JCSP Student			
Literacy Classroom Strategies	Kilkenny Ed Centre	Monday 2nd March	19.00 - 21.00
Literacy Classroom Strategies	Sligo Ed Centre	Thursday 19th March	19.00 - 21.00

Meetings	Venues	Dates	Time
Numeracy Classroom Strategies that scaffold learning for the JCSP Student			
Numeracy Classroom Strategies	Kilkenny Ed Centre	Wednesday 4th March	19.00 - 21.00
Numeracy Classroom Strategies	Donegal Ed Centre	Monday 30th March	17.00 - 19.00
Developing readers and reading spaces			
Reader Development	Clare Ed Centre	Thursday 12th March	19.00 - 21.00
Reader Development	Mayo Ed Centre	Monday 30th March	19.00 - 21.00
Using Comic Life to enhance and support teaching and learning in JCSP classrooms			
Comic Life	Waterford Ed Centre	Monday 2nd March	19.00 - 21.00
The successful classroom: Feedback Profiling and the JCSP Student			
The successful classroom:	Sligo Ed Centre	Monday 2nd March	17.00 - 19.00
The successful classroom:	Navan Ed Centre	Thursday 2nd April	17.00 - 19.00
The reluctant learner in the JCSP classroom	Cork Ed Centre	Thursday 5th March	19.00 - 21.00
Planning your school wide literacy and numeracy strategy in DEIS schools	Donegal Ed Centre	Thursday 12th March	17.00 - 19.00

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.

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. Full Substitution is Available for Full Day Courses

Please note times of evening courses as they vary from venue to venue

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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.

