

JCS P Newsletter

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE SCHOOL PROGRAMME

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Senior inspectors, Richard Coughlan and Lynda O'Toole chatting to the Coordinators at the Coordinators' meeting, April 2009.

Issue 9 December 2009

Close up on Killinarden Community School

The 'Close Up On...' section in our Newsletter continues to showcase, acknowledge and highlight some of the range of JCSP activities and achievements in one particular school setting. Here we are looking at the Literacy and Numeracy Programme in Killinarden Community School. The description of the programme of work undertaken by the school was very warmly received at the April 2nd Co-Ordinators Meeting in CDU.

Introduction

Killinarden Community School is offering a Literacy and Numeracy Programme to all JCSP students in First Year. This is a very intensive intervention into which huge resources have been invested in terms of staff and other provisions.

The work of the four co-ordinators – two for numeracy and two for literacy – has been phenomenal in terms of devising programmes of work which are constantly revised and re-worked in terms of needs which become apparent in class. There are 28 students in the target group with a diverse range of abilities, in both Literacy and Numeracy.

The initiative runs Monday to Friday from 9.10 to 11.10. It targets 28 First Year JCSP students. The literacy sessions run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and the numeracy ones on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Staff – Student Ratio and Interaction

One of the key factors in the success of this intervention is the student-staff ratio. The library is staffed by four teachers (in some sessions, this has had to be reduced to three), the SCPP Project Worker, the JCSP Librarian and between two and four SNAs depending on their availability.

The benefit to the students is almost incalculable. The social interaction between the adults serves as a model for students while strong working relationships are fostered by the small group work. With so many adults in the room, a wide variety of teaching styles available to the students and thus we are better able to cater for their individual learning styles.

The Library Space

Another factor in the success of the initiative is the library space and its resources. The space is conducive to the numbers of students involved in the initiative. There are four distinct working spaces and the library is well-resourced in terms of books – a generous range of fiction and non-fiction supports both the curriculum and leisure reading. There are four computers and access to the internet as well as a variety of educational software packages.

Running the programmes in the library has eliminated many of the problems associated with poor organisational skills as class work materials such as pens, paper, copies, and maths equipment are available. Each student has a folder with their copies and workbooks and these are kept in a storage room.

Timing of Sessions

The timing of the initiative is also crucial. We have deliberately chosen the first three classes of the morning for this important intervention; the most favourable time for this kind of work. It is also when we have the best attendance which targets potential early school leavers.

The triple class session gives us:

- Greater flexibility to deliver the curriculum in a variety of formats.
- Allows students to work at a pace more conducive to their needs.
- Allows time for a mid-morning snack break; funded by the School Completion Programme.



Literacy Sessions

In the literacy sessions, we are working on handwriting skills and spelling using workbooks. We are working on comprehension, grammar and vocabulary building through the use of SRA kits.

The high number of staff in the library working with small groups facilitates improvement in the students' oracy skills. This is reinforced through storytelling workshops delivered by professional writers and storytellers such as Niall de Burca, Mary Arrigan and Liz Weir.

This lays the foundation for their personal writing skills – essays, stories and letters. Chalk and talk sessions provide students with writing frames and supply them with appropriate vocabulary. Since the spring mid-term break, we have been focusing on subject-specific vocabulary – ESS and Home Economics. We also encourage personal reading through the borrowing of library books for reading at home.



During the Literacy Sessions students engage in the following activities:

- Subject Keywords
- Handwriting Workbook
- Spelling Workbook
- SRA Kit
- Fuzzbuzz Readers & Workbooks
- General Writing Skills – letters, short stories, reports
- Speaking & Conversational Skills through Home Economics Module
- Writing Skills through ESS Module



Numeracy

In the numeracy sessions the class is divided into four colour-coded groups involved in four different activities:

1. Homework preparation and correction
2. Using a variety of JCSP workbooks including Algebra, Trend Graphs and Bar Charts and computation to work on specific areas
3. Using numeracy software on computers and with Flashmasters, a JCSP Numeracy Initiative.
4. In the activity room, another group is engaged in a variety of maths activities – from jigsaws and tangrams to board games.

Social, Pastoral and Discipline Aspects

The routine of being in the library every day is much closer to the students' primary school experience and thus it has helped smooth their transition from primary to post-primary education. The students are much more settled and the effect on their behaviour is felt throughout the school day. The high staff numbers and team teaching approach allow us to give individual attention to students when it is required. They also allow us to deal with discipline issues before they become serious as well as identify any difficulties of a personal or social nature a student might have.



Students working away on their Literacy and Numeracy



Students work individually, in pairs or in groups with support from teachers and Special Needs Assistants



The atmosphere in the library is light-hearted and good-humoured and the staff members are viewed as being very approachable by the students.

Results...so far

There has been a very positive response to the intervention. At both staff and review meetings it has been noted that the Literacy Programme has had a major and positive impact on the First Years in terms of their behaviour and their social skills. The impact on the literacy and numeracy skills of the students is being monitored throughout the year by the four coordinators of the intervention and already we have seen huge improvements in some students. The response of the students themselves to the intervention is very positive.

First Year JCSP Library Initiative

28 students – 2 classes

2 Literacy co-ordinators

2 Numeracy co-ordinators

Plus 2 teachers, 2 SNAs and Librarian and SCP Youth Worker

Literacy Timetable (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)

Time	Activity
9.10	Bags, coats in cloakroom, folders, journals taken out
9.20	Handwriting
9.40	Spelling Workbook
10.00	SRA kit
10.20	Snack-break
10.30	Toilet Break
10.35	Reading Time/Book Choice
10.45	Writing Exercise (words, sentences, stories)

Please note the above times are approximate and provisional.

Numeracy Timetable (Tuesday, Thursday)

Classes are broken into four groups – Green, Red, Blue, Yellow – and there are four activities lasting 25 minutes each:

- Homework & Teacher instruction
- Maths Workbook (tables, JCSP workbooks)
- Activity 1 (computer maths games)
- Activity 2 (currently Connect 4 tables game)

We would like to thank JCSP Librarian, Helen Mc Mahon for submitting this article. And we wish all involved continued success with this programme.



Focus on Students

The 'Focus on Student' section in our Newsletter is to provide a forum to showcase work undertaken by students. In this edition we have a number of book reviews compiled by students across the country in response to our last Competition. 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. Just e-mail everything to jcspnewsletter@gmail.com. We look forward to the many delights that you no doubt have in store for us.

JCSP Competition Winners 2009 – Book Review Competition

A very big thank you to the students and teachers, who participated in the JCSP Book Review Competition. We really enjoyed reading the reviews and the outstanding entries. It is obvious that there is a wide diversity in reading interests among the students out there and we commend you all...keep reading!

Book Tokens were sent to all participating schools, along with prizes to students who have their reviews printed in the following pages.

The participating schools were:

Abbey Community College, Wicklow Town
Colaiste Mhuire, Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny
New Ross Vocational College, Co. Wexford

Presentation Secondary School, Galway
Rosary College, Armagh Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12
Scoil Phobail Bheara, Castletownbere, Co. Cork
St. Joseph's Secondary School, Navan, Co. Meath
St. Kevin's, Clogher Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12
St. Kevin's YEP, Infirmarary Road, Cork
St. Michael's College, Cappamore, Limerick
St. Pauls YEP, Finglas, Dublin 11
Technical Institute, Cambridge Road, Ringsend, Dublin 4
Wexford Vocational College, Westgate, Co. Wexford

It is impossible to fit in all the entries that we received; instead here is a sample from each school. Congratulations to Abbey Community College in Wicklow who were very innovative with their reviews presenting them on DVD. Below are some of the wonderful book reviews. We received a total of 164 book reviews...a lot of reading!

**By Aisling O'Sullivan, 2nd Year Student,
St. Kevin's YEP, Cork**

Granny Makes A Mess – author - Brianóg Brady Dawson

Granny is babysitting Danny and baby Susie. She is tired and wants to take a nap so she asks Danny to keep an eye on Susie while she is resting. Granny goes off to the sitting room for her nap.

Danny then goes into the kitchen and sees the place in a mess. Danny is shocked – there is no way that he is cleaning up that mess.

He decides to empty the laundry basket onto the floor. He then throws the dishes on to the table and folds the tablecloth over into a bundle. Next he stuffs all of it into the laundry basket. Then he puts all the dirty clothes into a cupboard with all the saucepans. The rest he puts into the bin and the fridge.

To make room in the fridge Danny takes out the vegetables and puts them in Susie's wardrobe. After some time Mum and Dad arrive home to find Susie crying. They look for her soother and can't find it. They begin to look for it and while looking; discover the mess created by Danny. When they ask Danny what happened he said "Granny did it".

Of course when Granny found out what Danny had done she was very angry. She told Danny that for the next month she would give him no treats.



*Danny was upset and promised himself never to do anything like that again.
NEVER! NEVER! NEVER!*

**By Leon Connell, Group I. St. Paul's,
YEP, Finglas, Dublin II**

Pony Kids – author – Perry Ogden

There are 200 pages in this book. It is about kids who have ownership of horses in Finglas, Ballymun and Ballyfermot. On the first Sunday of every month they buy and sell horses in Smithfield in Dublin.

*It tells you about breaking in horses and the way to catch wild horses.
I would recommend this book to anyone who likes horses.*

**By Ashleigh Coughlan, Technical Institute, Cambridge Road,
Ringsend, Dublin 4.**

Private – author – Kate Brian

This book is set in Easton Academy near Boston in America USA. Reed Brennan is the main character. She is a 15-year-old girl and has got a scholarship to the academy. Reed is a tall athletic girl and hates where she comes from – Croton, Pennsylvania.

New Schools 2009 – 2010

When Reed first enters the school gates she sees the school she loves and never wants to leave it. The grey walls that she was used to back in Croton are gone; the school is colourful and alive. The first person she meets on the campus is the gorgeous Thomas Pearson. Thomas is the most powerful and handsome boy on the campus. Thomas is rich and hates his parents because they're drunks and he blames them for all the bad stuff that has happened.

When Reed first sees the Billing girls she is determined to be friends with them. The Billing girls are the most beautiful peoples in the school. All the people in the school want to be their friends, because any girl that has been in the Billing house has turned out to be very successful in the future, like being an actress or even a model.

One of the most exciting parts of the book was when Reed finds out that Thomas is a drug dealer. When Reed finds out she goes speeding off down the road and when Thomas sees her he goes speeding after her. To me this is one of the most important and exciting parts of the book.

I would definitely recommend it for people over the age of 12.

We extend a big welcome to the new schools joining the programme this year. And we wish them every success introducing JCSP to their schools.

1. Ardscoil Phádraig, Granard, Longford
2. Ballinteer Community School
3. Coláiste Chomáin, Rossport
4. Coláiste Colmcille, Indreabhán, Galway
5. Coláiste Éinde, Galway
6. Corran College, Ballymote, Sligo
7. Duiske College, Graiguenamanagh
8. Gairmscoil na bPiarsach, Ros Much
9. Grange Community College, Dublin
10. Lanesboro Community College, Longford
11. McHale College, Achill, Mayo
12. Meanscoil Chroimghlinne, Crumlin Rd, Dublin
13. North Monastery Christian Brothers School, Cork
14. Oberstown Education Centre, Co. Dublin
15. Portlaoise Vocational School
16. St. Conleth's Vocational School, Newbridge
17. St. Fintinas, Longwood, Co. Meath
18. St. Mogue's College, Bawnboy, Cavan
19. St. Paul's Secondary School, Monasterevin
20. St. Tiernan's College, Crossmolina, Mayo
21. Trinity House School, Co. Dublin
22. Vocational School, Clonmel
23. St. Joseph's, Rush, Co. Dublin

Statistic from Final Profiling 2009



This year 165 schools participated in final profiling involving 2,717 third year students. 70% were profiled on-line and 30% of coordinators sent in cards. We received excellent feedback on the on-line profiling process which worked very well indeed. We would welcome your comments and any labour saving ideas you may have as we are always looking for ways to reduce the time spent on the administration of final profiling.

Top Ten Subject Statements

Statement Number	Title	Number profiled	
1	English 1	Personal Expression	2443
2	English 2	Experience of Literature and Media	2305
3	English 5	Novel/Short Story	2243
4	English 8	Letters	2190
5	English 6	Poetry	2180
6	Maths 1	Use of Number	2159
7	English 3	Creative Writing	2077
8	English 4	Experience of Literature	2024
9	English 7	Play/Film	1982
10	Maths 2	Sets, Relations and Charts	1971

English continues to top the table of most used statements with *English 1: Personal Expression* being awarded to 90% of students. The most popular

maths statement *Maths 1: Use of Number* was taken by 79% of students. We are delighted to see the wide cross-section of subject teachers involved in profiling and using the statements. This year 3 science statements made it to the Top 15 list of subject statements: *Science 1- The Non-Living Environment*, *Science 3 – The Human Body* and *Science 2- The Living Environment*.

Among the cross-curricular statements Personal Management statements 1-5 continue to be popular, 67% of students were awarded the *Punctuality* statement. Literacy, CSPE and the Field Trip also featured among the Top 10.

Top Ten Cross Curricular Statements

	Code	Title	Number profiled
1	CC1	Punctuality	1812
2	CC2	Attendance	1592
3	CC3	Working with Others	1536
4	CC4	Working Alone	1462
5	CC5	Homework	1793
6	CC53	Word Millionaire	1046
7	CC50	Make a Book	874
8	CC7	Action Project	819
9	CC8	Action Project Report	696
10	CC10	Field Trip	639

We would like to thank all the co-ordinators for their patience and co-operation and to congratulate our students on their Junior Certificate results.

Subject Statement Reviews

Please note that following reviews and consultation a small number of Statements have been reviewed and changes made accordingly. These have been issued to all co-ordinators. As always we welcome any comments or suggestions that teachers have in relation to statement development.

Students awarded Final Profiles at Plunket College – Summer Celebration



Here we have the third year class in Plunket College, after they were presented with their JCSP final profiles, with Aideen Cassidy and their JCSP co-ordinator Teresa Murphy.

A huge turn out of parents turned the event into a great celebration of the students' success. Well done to the students, their teachers and parents.

Student Folders

A hugely important aspect of the work with JCSP students takes place through their folder work. This allows students to identify with the Programme and to keep a record of all the Activities that they engage with during the time in JCSP. Many schools have wonderful folders in which students record their attendance, keep certificates, have a copy of the statements that they are working on for each subject and have photos of the various Initiatives and Literacy and Numeracy activities that they engage with during their time in the JCSP.

The Merits of the JCSP Student Folders are that they:

- Generate ownership of the programme
- Make students of JCSP aware of the steps involved in the next module of work
- Increase motivation
- Assist the student to become involved in his / her own learning
- Introduce opportunities for positive narrative at parent-teacher meetings

The folders are a very useful means of involving students in the learning process. Student folders allow teachers to provide regular feedback and affirmation to students through the discussions that they facilitate.

In St. Brigid's in Dundalk teachers provide regular opportunities for students to place certificates, examples of their work and an update of their various subject profiles into their folders. This ensures that students identify with the programme and the progress that they are making.

The process of profiling and filling in the three boxes is clearly explained to students from the beginning of their time in JCSP and revisited regularly. The photographs below show how the students have this displayed on a notice board in the hall area. While parents are informed through the use of an information leaflet, prepared by the late Michael Gordon. It explains to parents that JCSP is about getting the very best from young people during their time at school. It is about helping them to enjoy their education.'

The leaflet goes on to explain that each student 'will have a folder into which their work goes.' The Profile, Statements and learning targets are all clearly explained so that parents understand what their children are doing.



Mater Christi, Finglas in Dublin has also invested considerable time in developing their student folders to encourage their students to identify with the programme and to track their progress.

The school makes excellent use of the Certificates supplied by the Support Service to reward students for work well done, for good attendance, for kindness to others, for completing a statement and for doing well in exams.



They have also designed a number of certificates themselves and award them to students for various endeavours such as: excellent class work, beautifully presented homework, excellent

behaviour, being on time, friendly manner and attitude towards staff, and fellow students.

Students are also encouraged to take ownership of their own learning. Every so often teachers focus on what students in a particular group may for example be proud of or not proud of :

What did I do this week that I am proud of?

1. Being good in Religion!
2. Getting my Irish test all correct =]
3. The PE teacher said we were Excellent at Basketball

What did I do this week that I am not proud of?

1. Get a warning because I was talking! but im going to work my hardest next week?

There are lots of good ideas going on out there in schools in relation to student folders and we would love to hear them so please get in touch with your RDO or indeed e-mail your ideas to

jcpsnewsletter@gmail.com.

Initiatives 2008-2009

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to one and all for the wonderful evaluations that were returned to the JCSP Office during the summer. If for some reason you have not yet managed to complete your Evaluations please do so immediately. There continues to be a very wide range of initiatives on offer. We wish you all every continued success with this year's initiatives and we look forward to hearing about how they are progressing during our school visits. We have outlined how a few schools undertook some of the initiatives in the last year.

A Saw Doctor visits McHale College, Tuam.

Leo Moran of the 'Saw Doctors' with First Year students in Mc Hale College, Tuam



On Thursday 30th April, Leo Moran of the Saw Doctors visited McHale College, Tuam and spent two hours with the First Years JCSP students. He performed for the students from the repertoire of Saw Doctors' hits. He spoke to the students, answered their questions, listened to them performing and composed a number with them there and then on the day.

Music has a very high profile in McHale College Tuam. The First Year JCSP students are currently participating in an initiative to engage in the process of music making. By adopting a cross-curricular approach involving English, Art and Music the focus of the initiative is to develop the listening, writing and creative skills of the students. Access to appropriate music and recording websites is being facilitated through the use of ICT. The communication and media skills of the students are being developed and the aim is to have a recording made of their own performance some time in the next year.

Edel Burke, the Music teacher, is the driving force behind the initiative and already she has generated enthusiasm in the students for music in general and the confidence to participate and indeed to perform.

Leo Moran activated some of that enthusiasm and confidence the day he visited the school. Not only had he the students with him "on the N17" and "dancing with Céilí, Céilí Band" but the students themselves, with Martin Ward as a very able MC, had Leo with them in the "C'mon Everybody Rap" that they are working on in class.



Leo Moran, Saw Doctors and Edel Burke, Music Teacher

The morning ended with a 'jam' involving Leo, students, Edel Burke and one JCSP RDO performing a spontaneous rap in front of the Principal, Eileen Delaney, Teachers and SNAs.

ORBITAL goes down on the farm

On Thursday 7th May JCSP students in Ennis Community College visited two farms in New Quay, on the edge of the Burren, as part of the outdoor activity project in the school known as ORBITAL: Outdoor Resources Brought Into Teaching And Learning.

The students visited a farm with dry stock and dairy farm on the day.

Like all ORBITAL activities the event was planned and prepared in class beforehand with relevant teachers. The preparation involved drawing up relevant questions for the students to ask of the farmers in relation to the work they do. There is a high level of cross-curricular co-operation and self-directed learning in the activities of ORBITAL. In the case of the farm visits the Home Economics and Science teachers played a significant part. The information gathered by the students is brought back to the classroom where teachers take the experience of the activity and bring it to bear on the curriculum. Teachers find that this experiential learning makes the task of teaching particular topics a lot easier. Students can visualise and conceptualise the content having seen the evidence themselves first hand. The farm visit brought home to students in a very

clear manner the issue of market share for farm products. In the case of these two visits the process of bringing beef and dairy products from the farm to the kitchen table was clearly explained and understood.





On the 28th May a Celebration of the ORBITAL Year was held in Ennis Community College. There was a display of all activities conducted over the school year. Parents, teachers and local primary school 6th class pupils were invited. Over the year the activities included visits to the Burren archaeological and historical sites, a visit to Bunratty Castle, a visit to the Kilfenora Heritage Centre, the farm visits, a visit to Seedsavers in East Clare and also involved participation in adventure sports such as rock climbing and canoeing. The range of subjects covered by the activities includes, English, Maths, Science, Home Economics, Business, History and Geography.

ORBITAL goes from strength to strength in Ennis Community College. There is a huge commitment of support from the staff. The resource team under Vivien Arthur and Niamh Crowe deserve great credit for the energy they give to the activities. The School Completion Programme team under Áine Meehan and Catherine O'Donnell are heavily involved. JCSP, under the stewardship of Seamus Moylan, prospers as a result of the targeting of JCSP students by ORBITAL. The Burren Outdoor Education Centre plays

a pivotal role in organising the activities. principal Matt Power, speaks very highly of the positive impact that ORBITAL has on the school and is wholeheartedly behind the project. The JCSP students enjoy the activities and as a result enjoy school.

End of Year Celebration in Mount Sion CBS

First Year JCSP students at Mount Sion CBS, Waterford had a wonderful end of year celebration which commenced in the Edmund Rice Chapel with a Famine Commemoration ceremony at which each student read aloud in front of the whole school.



Mr Bill Doherty stands in for Pat Kenny to interview young Mount Sion author

This was followed back in the school by a display of their Make a Book Project and a Late Late Show type interview on each pupil's book.

The display of photographs from their field trip and the students' artwork also attracted much admiration and praise from teachers, parents and guests alike. Certificates were awarded to all students in recognition of their achievements during the year.



Proud authors from Mount Sion display their books

The Reading Challenge Initiative in Abbey Community College

The Reading Challenge Initiative took place for the first and second year students, during March and April and involved seventy eight JCSP students. The Reading Challenge 'challenges' these students to read a minimum of five books over a five week period.

The event was very successful with nearly all of the students managing to read all five books in the allocated time. In fact, many of the students who finished their books before the five weeks were up continued to take out books with many students reading as many as 15 books.

All students who read five books were presented with a certificate of achievement at the JCSP summer celebrations. Students who excelled at the challenge and read well over the minimum requirement or who made a special effort to read five books were awarded with vouchers for the Bridgewater Centre in Arklow.

Reading Challenge remains a very important element of the school's literacy programme. The Reading Challenge was devised and initiated a number of years ago by the school's recently retired JCSP Co-ordinator, Ms Marie Fidgeon. This initiative has been so successful in improving reading ages that it is now a firmly established element in many school's literacy programmes throughout the country.

Initiatives in Larkin Community College

Some of the Initiatives completed in the College involved a Celebrity Chef visit, a trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre, Science and Green School gardening, a Ceilí Mór, Samba Sessions and Italian simulation of cooking and shopping.



Students involved in the Samba Initiative

Students also participated in a field trip which brought them to Burkes Ice Cream farm and factory and Fairy House Cookery School.

The students saw the ice cream being made and then visited the horses and the calving shed. At the Fairyhouse Cookery School the students cooked a three course meal. Each student wrote up a report about their day out and a follow up on dairy foods was done in their Home Economics class.

The details for the cookery school are: Fairyhouse Cookery School, Fairyhouse Road, Ratoath, Co. Meath

Phone: (01) 6896476 or 086 8831124

info@fairyhousecookeryschool.com

www.fairyhousecookeryschool.com/courses/teentastetour.html



Reading Programme in Largy College, Clones

Each year for the last four years Largy College has linked with the local library in Clones to run a Book Reading Programme. In the reading programme students, along with a parent, read three books over a six-week period. On completion of each book the student writes a review. The library sources the books specifically with the reading programme in mind. All students read a review of their favourite book on the celebration night, arranged at the end of the programme. The students also participate in the JCSP Book Review Initiative which sees the students being awarded with a book token for the reviews that they undertake as part of the reading programme. Students and parents visit the library once a week, over the six weeks.



Students write up their book reviews onto the caterpillar shape which are then displayed around the wall.

Summer Celebration in Abbey Community College with History Live

As part of the JCSP Summer celebrations, the library organised for History Live to come to the school and put on a number of performances for all the school's JCSP students. History Live go around to schools throughout the country and re-enact historical periods using real weapons and costumes. On the visit to the Abbey, the company went through history from the Viking times through to the Norman period and up through the Irish Civil War and the Second World War. The day proved to be a great success with many of the students expressing a new found interest in history lessons.

History Live can be contacted at:

<http://www.irishhistorylive.com/>



Library Activities

Writers Master Classes

The second annual JCSP Library Project/Poetry Ireland Writers Master Classes took place in the Curriculum Development Unit in Crumlin on April 30th last.



Over 80 JCSP students from 18 JCSP Library Project schools throughout the country, together with their librarians and teachers came together on the day to work with some of the country's top writers, storytellers, poets and dramatists.

The students worked in mixed groups with students from other schools and each group got to work with 2 different writers over the course of the day.

This years Master Classes were facilitated by: Siobhan Parkinson, Larry O'Loughlin, Neville Thompson, Liz Weir, John W. Sexton, Terry Mc Donagh and Tony Curtis.



Students from Galway Community College

Some comments from participating students:

"It was a very good day to work with a load of famous authors"

"John Sexton told us how to plan out our story with story squares and he made up a story. Liz Weir told us horror stories

I made up my own horror story and she was very helpful"

"Neville Thompson was deady. The things we wrote about!! We got our photo taken with him too"

"I'd love to be a writer.....I could make stories all day"



Students from Abbey Community College



From left to right: John W Sexton, Liz Weir, Larry O'Loughlin, Terry Mc Donagh, Neville Thomas, and Tony Curtis

Some comments from participating librarians/teachers:

"The writers were brilliant and engaged really well with the students."

"Having students from different schools in the groups was great and I was delighted at how well they all worked together"

"The students from my school absolutely loved the day. We all had a brilliant time"

"All the writers we attended were excellent. They were very informative and entertaining. The feedback from the students was very positive. They all enjoyed themselves and would like to do something similar again."

Once again this year the Master Classes gave students (and their accompanying librarians and teachers) the opportunity to meet and work with a variety of different writers. In many cases these introductory sessions will lead to the writers that the students engaged particularly well with being invited to the school as Writer-in-Residence in the coming academic year.

The following piece of nonsense writing is an example of what fun the students can have with the writers on the day!

Fog

The Chinese man won't leave me alone.

I have a flower up my sleeve

And the helicopter fell off a building last Tuesday

With the pigeons flying over the hill

With three Mexicans eating tortilla raps and playing chess

With Barack Obama

Then a scarecrow bit an American person's armpit

And he threw him into a volcano

While a car was plowing down the M50

With 2 pigs in the boot

And there's a smell of prawns and spare ribs off the pigs farts

And I had lunch on a building

And I was wearing shorts

But the man said

Only carpet is for losers

But no way are lady men gonna rob my train today

Cause I'll shoot them with my machine gun

That I bought 40 years ago today

Now my sausage is gone

Give that man a can of coke

And I'm gonna move to Offaly

Cause I like sheep and chickens

I saw a mirror playing with itself

And it started to cry



A group photo of all writers, students, teachers, librarians and members of the JCSP Support Team at the end of a great day

The JCSP Library Project and Poetry Ireland would like to compliment all participant schools on the success of the day. The day ran extremely smoothly with absolutely no hiccups of any sort. All the students present were a credit to their schools on the day.

To contact Poetry Ireland: www.poetryireland.ie

David Mohan, JCSP Librarian in Coláiste Eoin, Finglas wins the Hennessy Literary Award



We would like to extend our hearty congratulations to David Mohan on his recent success in winning both the emerging poetry category, and over-all winner in all categories of this year's Hennessy XO New Irish Writers Award at the Four Seasons Hotel in Ballsbridge, Dublin, on Tuesday April 28th.

David is part of the Lucan Creative Writers Group which meets every second Saturday in Lucan Library. Writing from some members of the group can be viewed on their website: www.lucanwriters.ie.

Library Launches

The Library launches within the JCSP Demonstration Library Project continue.

Jobstown Community College Library Launch

The official launch of the JCSP library in Jobstown Community College, as part of the Junior Certificate School Programme Demonstration Library Project took place on April 3rd. The library was officially opened by Mayor, Councillor Marie Corr, South Dublin County Council and the launch was also attended by local TDs Charlie O'Connor and Brian Hayes, South Dublin County Council's County Librarian, Georgina Byrne and Senior Librarian of South Dublin County Schools Library Service, Laura Joyce. Also in attendance were representatives from the Home School Community Liaison services, the local Community Gardaí, the Department of Education, County Dublin Vocational Education Committee, the Curriculum Development Unit, CDVEC and the JCSP Support Service.

School Principal Mr. Ronan Connolly opened the proceedings by welcoming all present to the wonderful new library facility in the school. Aideen Cassidy, National Co-ordinator of the JCSP Programme (and former teacher) spoke of how this new library, like all those in the JCSP Library Project, would contribute greatly to the literacy development of, in particular, those students participating in the JCSP Project in the school.

She thanked all involved for their hard work in bringing the project to fruition, in particular school management, JCSP Co-ordinator P.J. Doyle,

school librarian Michelle Tuohey and former school librarian Karen O'Shea.

Before partaking in the refreshments provided, all those present, both young and old alike, were enthralled by the witty and entertaining tales of storyteller, Niall de Burca. Niall kept all present spellbound as he transported them to mystical far-away places through his very unique brand of storytelling magic; providing a fitting finale to a wonderful celebratory occasion.



Story teller, Niall de Burca with Kathleen Moran, Senior Librarian



JCSP Librarian Michelle Tuohey



Acting CEO of Co Dublin VEC, Marie Griffin

Coláiste Dhúlaigh Library Launch

School Principal, Mary Ward, welcomed the assembled guests to the recent launch of the JCSP Library in Coláiste Dhúlaigh, Coolock. The guest of honour for the launch was Dr. Darren Kelly, lecturer in the English Department of St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, and former student of the school.

Speaking at the launch Dr. Kelly stated that he completed his Leaving Certificate in the school in 1987 but that entering university at that time was not considered an option by himself or any of his classmates. He spent the next 10 years working as a community and development worker in the U.S., across Europe and in Dublin, before returning to complete a B.A. in St. Patrick's College in 1998. He completed his Ph.D in 2007 and was awarded the Ahearn Scholarship as Ireland's top post-graduate student by the American Academy of Achievement. Dr. Kelly spoke of the importance of education and reminded those present that students deserve all the supports possible to enable them to reach their full potential and that this wonderful new library facility would greatly contribute to that ideal.

Other guests in attendance included Jacinta Stewart, CEO of the CDVEC, Aileen Cassidy, National Co-ordinator JCSP, Aidan Clifford, Director Curriculum Development Unit, Kathleen Moran, Senior Librarian JCSP Library Project, Sinead Dunne, school JCSP Co-ordinator, school staff, parents, students and members of the JCSP support team.

JCSP School librarian Ann Hughes thanked the entire school community for their assistance during the set-up phase of the new library and stated that she looked forward to the library continuing to develop as a very valuable literacy and learning resource for JCSP students within the school and also for the wider school community.

We wish both Coláiste Dhúlaigh and Jobstown Community College every continued success with their libraries.



Sinead Dunne, JCSP Co-ordinator, Cláiste Dhúlaigh presenting Dr. Darren Kelly, St. Patrick's College Drumcondra with a gift



Some of the staff and invited guests at the launch



From left to right: Aidan Clifford, Director of CDU, Ann Hughes, Librarian, Aileen Cassidy, National Co-ordinator JCSP, Jacinta Stewart, CEO, CDVEC, Dr. Darren Kelly, St. Patrick's Drumcondra, Kathleen Moran, Senior Librarian, Sinead Dunne, JCSP Co-ordinator, Mary Ward, Principal, Coláiste Dhúlaigh

Library Activities

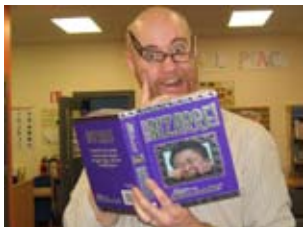
This section will give you a little flavour of some of the activities going on in the JCSP Demonstration Library Project throughout the country.

Reuben the entertainer at St Kevin's Community College, Clondalkin



Reuben the Entertainer visited the JCSP-school library at St Kevin's Community College on Friday 15th May last.

He did two one hour performances for all First Years, as well as some Second, Third and Fifth Year students.



In each of his sessions, he performed a series of magic tricks, comedy sketches & impersonations. All students really enjoyed the sessions. There was plenty of laughter coming from the library that morning, and students were amazed by his magic tricks, which included money disappearing, untying his hands & some clever card tricks.



We thank Librarian, Dearbhail O'Connor for this report

The JCSP Library in Patrician College

Our JCSP Library, here in Patrician College has been open since the students returned after their Easter break.

The following images are a very brief guide of how the library has progressed from its original layout to how it looks now.

Since opening the response from the staff and students has been fantastic and the library has quickly become the focal point for the whole school. We are open from 8.15am in the morning until 5.00pm in the afternoon. A large number of students now visit the library in the mornings, at lunchtime and after school to browse our stock, borrow titles, complete homework, and use the computers or simply to relax with their friends. During the last term all the classes in the school visited the library with their teachers and we have had numerous return visits from the JCSP classes in particular, who have been using the library's resources to complete projects. We have also hosted the school's Parents' Evening and the JCSP Presentation. We will spend the next month installing the remaining fittings and building our stock collection to ensure that the library is fully operational when our students return in September.

We thank Librarian Ciaran O'Doherty, for this report

New kid no more . . . an update from the new JCSP library in Beaufort College, Navan.



Before and After!



Well I promised to keep the JCSP newsletter readership posted, so here goes. As each day goes by I'm feeling less and less like the new kid and increasingly like I'm becoming part of the furniture around here. This is in no small part due to the welcome I've had from the staff and the ease with which the students have accepted me. Let me just state, after seven months here, I find myself in the very happy position of having joined another GREAT school. It doesn't take long to see that the ethos of this school is to take a holistic approach to the care and teaching of students. It is my hope that the library will offer a range of strategies and opportunities to underpin that ethos.

Students in Beaufort have been busy borrowing books since the Easter holidays. They are enthusiastic and excited about having a library and they love the changes to the room. They've been really involved in setting up and helping me with all the various and seemingly endless jobs that need to be done. The Parent's Council donated a fish tank. (Unfortunately the death count has risen now to 3!) We've had a significant number of parents visiting the library and their response has been wholly positive.

The teachers and special needs assistants here have given me invaluable practical help as well as borrowing items themselves on a regular basis. We've had great interest and support from Meath VEC and from Meath County Library in the form of IT support, visits, hosting events and looking for ways to share information and collaborate.

So far, so good! It has been a enlivening seven months here. The real work though begins in September. Bring it on – after the summer holidays!

We thank Librarian, Eileen McDermott for this report.

MS Readathon

Abbey Community College Library was recently presented with a special library award from the organizers of the MS Readathon. As well as receiving a certificate, the library also received €500 worth of book vouchers from IES, the library book suppliers. Librarian, Stephen Doherty, English teacher, Eileen Sexton, and three of the school's students, Jacob Aupiais, Danielle Barney and Nicole O'Toole who took part in the Readathon, all attended a special awards ceremony in Dundrum Town Centre on Wednesday 4th March where they were presented with their prize.

Abbey Community College has been consistently involved in this project since its inception thanks to the dedicated work of the English teachers and the pupils of the school who continue to support this worthy cause each year through their reading.



'Larkin One World Week' 27th April -May 1st

During the week a number of events and activities were held to promote intercultural awareness within the school. Fairtrade DVDs were shown to a number of classes in the library and students who completed the worksheets received Fairtrade goodie bags as prizes. Each day at lunchtime World Music was played in the assembly hall and artwork and projects on various countries were displayed around the school. Parents of some of the International Students came in to demonstrate their cooking skills and some students gave demonstrations of traditional cooking to their classmates. New photos of each day's activities were added to a slideshow in the main hall. These events encouraged learning about other cultures and were an enjoyable learning experience for students, parents and staff.

Students from 22 different countries participated in this event. The Language Resource teacher and the Home Economic teachers worked with International Students to prepare dishes from their countries for "A Taste of the World" in Larkin. In the library and English class JCSP students did projects on counties around the world and International Students researched and printed recipes for an International cookbook (now on display in the library). An Irish teacher and her class published a collection of Irish recipes.

On the last day of One World Week we decorated the resource room with students' projects and flags and students were brought down by class where they had the opportunity to taste food from all over the world.

Many of the parents of the International Students had prepared food and sent it in with their child or brought it in on the day. At lunchtime we had the room open to all students and staff and had a huge amount of visitors. The event was a huge success and students were quite adventurous and willing to try new tastes and learn about other cultures.

World Book Day

On World Book Day author **Peter Sheridan** visited all of our 1st year classes who were gathered in the assembly hall. They listened eagerly to him reading from his autobiography '47 Roses' and enjoyed hearing stories from his writing life.

At the end of the session, pupils, teachers and Mr. Sheridan took part in '**Drop Everything And Read**' and all pupils received a World Book Day book and book token. Students were especially interested in Mr. Sheridan's stories about football and growing up in inner city Dublin and they were touched by a piece he read from his autobiography. Since his visit there's been a huge demand for his books even by those who are not regular visitors to the library outside of class time.



Paired Reading

Pupils from Marlborough Primary School visited the Library on World Book Day for paired reading with 2nd year pupils.



Students in the Assembly Hall with Peter Sheridan

Author Visit to the Library

Mary Arrigan visited the school library for two hours on Thursday April 2nd. Her visit was partially funded by Poetry Ireland. All first year students attended the sessions. Mary's introduction of her illustration work was very popular. They were in awe that Mary had drawn the pictures herself and enjoyed seeing how the initial sketches – resembling pencil drawings that the children do themselves – had progressed to finished publication.

Students who had read Mary's books asked questions about them and were very enthusiastic and interested in borrowing the new books. These students benefited a lot from the session, however Mary's other segments – story creation and illustrations were unique and captured the attention of all students in the room.

The **Minister for Education and Science**, Batt O'Keeffe TD, launched the Simon 'Close to Home' DVD and Resource Pack for Secondary Schools in Larkin Library on May 27th.

Thanks to Jenny Mangan, Librarian for these reports

Writer-in-Residence – Siobhan Parkinson at Presentation Secondary School Warrenmount: 20 January – 1 April 2009

I was delighted when Siobhan Parkinson accepted our request to come to the Presentation Secondary School, Warrenmount, Dublin 8 as Writer-in-



Residence and sponsored by Poetry Ireland. Our school has disadvantaged status and Siobhan came to the school every Tuesday morning from 9.15 – 11.15 to work with 16 Second Year girls who are following the Junior Certificate Schools Programme. The aim was to invent a story and write a book.

During the introductory stage, we looked at a story which had been written by JCSP boys from Kylemore College under Siobhan's direction. She asked the girls to get into groups of about 4-5 students and think up a character – what age they were, their likes and dislikes, their personality and what they wanted. Three characters evolved and were given names: Maggie May, Jenny and Sienna (discussion over the spelling of the names!). This was a very active session and involved differing opinions. The girls then drew a sketch as to how they imagined the characters. This session took place in the art room. (At this stage we thought we might create more illustrations later in the sessions, but this did not happen as the girls decided it could make a good play).

It took about 4 sessions to write the story which we did in the school library. The girls discuss their ideas – Siobhan seemed to know what the right questions were to make a good story – and they dictated the text while Siobhan wrote it on the computer, so it came up on the big screen. They then decided on the title of the story: "The Birthday Surprise".

The last two sessions involved the drama teacher, Seamus Quinn. The story was adapted from a novella-type document of 6 chapters to a

drama with 6 scenes. The highlight of the sessions took place on 1st April when the students acted out the drama for two different first year groups of students – one mainstream class and a JCSP class. We were very pleased that Jane O'Hanlon from Poetry Ireland and Kathleen Moran, Senior Librarian were able to attend. The principal and vice-principal and a few of the teachers were also present.

The students really enjoyed the experience. The story tells of a new girl (Sienna) joining a class of girls. One of the girls is quite mean (Jenny) and she celebrates her birthday. Her friend who is really nice (Maggie May) invites Sienna to Jenny's party at the house where there is a private swimming pool. Sienna can't swim and nearly drowns, but is saved by Maggie May and they end up in hospital. As they try to contact their parents (Sienna lives with her Dad, and Maggie May lives with her Mam), they discover they are twin sisters! Every student participated in the classroom scene and also the swimming pool scene which was dramatized by whirling umbrellas and bubble-blowing!

It was a very valuable experience for the class. There were 7 acting parts but every student was able to participate fully in both the creation of the story and the dramatization. We are all very grateful to Siobhan Parkinson for her creativity and enthusiasm regarding these workshops. A big thank-you to Siobhan!

Thanks to Diane Orr, School Librarian for this report



*Parkinson at Presentation
Secondary School Warrenmount:
20 January – 1 April 2009*



*Siobhan receiving flowers
from the students after their
time with her during the Writer
in Residence Initiative*

In-service Reports

March Co-ordinator's Meetings:

Librarians and Co-ordinators at the meeting in Drumcondra Education Centre on Monday March 9th



This round of co-ordinators' meeting was very well attended, with four meetings taking place over a week long period in Sligo Education on Tuesday March 3rd, the Curriculum Development Unit on Thursday 5th March, Cork Education Support Centre on Friday 6th March and Drumcondra Education Centre on Monday March 9th 2009.

Current updates and developments in the Programme were identified, described and discussed. The presentation on research undertaken in Idiana, which identified seven important principles that support the retention of students in school, was very well received. These seven principles are: Readiness, Rigour, Relevance, Relationships, Redesign, Retooling and Resources.

The work of the TPN was presented and a report provided on their inaugural meeting in Tallaght Education Centre on Saturday February 7th 2009.

In CDU, teachers and librarians heard the great work carried out in Moyle Park College, Clondalkin where the JCSP Co-ordinator set-up a Library with money from the Dormant Accounts. We were all very impressed to see the amount of work that Shay Quinn and his team managed over a very short period of time in furnishing the Library, setting up a cataloging system, purchasing books and placing them on the shelves.

April 2nd Curriculum Development Unit

On April 2nd a huge number of JCSP Co-ordinators and JCSP Librarians gathered in CDU for a very different Co-ordinators Meeting. Dr. Peter Archer, Director of the Education Research Centre, and Senior Inspectors Linda O'Toole and Richard Coughlan addressed those assembled on the issue of educational disadvantage.



JCSP Co-ordinators and Librarians at the Meeting in CDU



Co-ordinators, Librarians and JCSP Support Team Members busy working away in Drumcondra Education Centre

There were numerous presentations from JCSP Co-ordinators regarding the wonderful work going on in schools in relation to the JCSP Initiatives. During coffee break there were several discussion points with posters and attended by JCSP Co-ordinators to provide further information or answer any questions.

Information was provided on books put together with the aid of Comic Life, Writers in Residence, Bodhran Initiative, The Make a Book on Wicklow Gaol that became a published book in Abbey Community College, Literacy and Numeracy Programmes being run in two Libraries in conjunction with the JCSP team in the schools, Terence Mac Swiney College and Killinarden Community School, The Numeracy Project in Killarney Community College to mention but a few.



Senior Inspector Richard Coughlan addressing the audience in CDU

JCSP Librarians and Co-ordinators presented on the various activities that were on-going in their schools in relation to literacy development and explained how the various initiatives impacted on students attendance and retention in their schools.

We are very grateful to all who presented on the day.

Classroom Strategies for Supporting Numeracy Development

These two evening in-services took place in Cork Education Support Centre on Thursday 5th February 2009 and Tralee Support Centre on Monday 9th March 2009.

These identified and described a range of strategies and approaches that can be employed to enhance problem solving in mathematics and numeracy.

Please click here to see this year's in-service Calendar from September to December.





Comic Life - Waterford Education Centre
March 2nd 2009

Tutor Willie McTiernan, guided the participants through the process of creating and producing a comic type booklet using digital photography. This has proven to be a very popular in-service amongst JCSP

teachers. This year's Make a Book Exhibition had a number of entries which demonstrated the wide variety of applications Comic Life can have right across the curriculum.



Make a Book 2009 Dublin and Cork

Once again there were two exhibitions this year, one in Dublin and one in Cork. The Dublin exhibition was held in Dublin City Council's Civic offices on Wood Quay in the city centre. The Atrium is a beautiful venue for the exhibition, a very big, bright space with lots of lovely greenery. The Cork exhibition is well established now as an annual event. Again we had a great venue: the Millennium Hall in the City Hall.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin Emer Costello opened the Dublin exhibition while Lord Mayor Brian Bermingham did the honours in Cork.



Make a Book is an exuberant celebration of reading, writing and the creative imagination of students and teachers. This year more than 1,750 students from 112 schools participated in the project with the assistance of more than 400 teachers.



Students from O'Faich College, Dundalk with their book at the Dublin exhibit



Aideen Cassidy, Susan Dennison (NCCA) and Bernie Kiely

There were hundreds of books on display often accompanied by amazing art and craft work. Some of the schools involved whole class groups in writing one big book, while in other schools everyone wrote their own individual books. There were huge, three-dimensional books, dainty little books, and collections of beautifully crafted and decorated texts that had been painstakingly put together. There were books on every topic under the sun and made with every possible material: wood, metal, cloth, clay, plastic, foam, paper and paint. This year we even had a totem pole, I bet the students had fun making that. The books give us a great insight to the fascinating world of the Irish teenager.



Students enjoying the many wonderful exhibits in Cork.

Some of the wonderful displays on offer in Cork



Congratulations to all the students who took part and special thanks to the teachers who helped with the projects. Keep an eye on the website as we hope to put up some of the other wonderful photos that we have from both exhibitions and for details of the next Make a Book.

Make – A – Book Quiz Winners Dublin

Prize & Day	School
Over-all winner of an iPod Touch	Carla O'Brien, Donahies Community School, Streamville Road, Dublin 13
Wednesday Digital Camera	Aaron Higgins, St. Patrick's Community College, Naas, Co. Kildare
iPod Nano	Rildwan Olorunsogo, Trinity Comprehensive, Ballymun, Dublin 9
Thursday Digital Camera	Katie Jones, Beaufort College, Navan, Co. Meath
iPod Nano	Dean Sludds, Enniscorthy Vocational College, Co. Wexford
Friday Digital Camera	Nicole Maguire, Killinarden Community School, Tallaght, Dublin 24
iPod Nano	Linda O'Reilly, Newcourt School, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Make – A – Book Quiz Winners Cork

Prize & Day	School
Over-all winner of an iPod Touch	Neisha Clifton, Killarney Community College, Newroad, Killarney, Co. Kerry
Tuesday Digital Camera	Stephen Duggan, Desmond College, Gortboy, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick
iPod Nano	Ciaran Maher, Colaiste Mhuie Co-ed, Thurles, Co Tipperary
Wednesday Digital Camera	Tadhg Scannell, Bishop McEgan College, Cork
iPod Nano	Darren O'Riordan, Scoil Bernadette, Montenotte, Cork City
Thursday Digital Camera	Ryan O'Mahoney, Nagle Community College, Ave. de Rennes, Mahon, Blackrock, Co. Cork
iPod Nano	Joanne O'Brien, St. Fanahans College, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork



News

*This section continues our development of the new-look JCSP Newsletter.
This section will keep you fully informed and up-to-date with developments within the programme.*

JCSP "Number Millionaire" Initiative

"Number Millionaire" is a numeracy quiz where individual students (contestants) are challenged to identify the correct answer to each of twelve arithmetical questions. Each quiz question has a choice of four answers attached; three of the answers are incorrect. The student can identify the correct answer by performing mental computation and / or deduction. The quiz questions are based on the following numerical concepts and competencies: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percentages, square numbers, even and odd numbers, greater than and less than, remainders, equivalences, properties of regular shapes, properties of angles, properties of time and telling the time, calendar, sequences, simple equations.

Each contestant has four "Lifelines" available to him / her when faced with a difficult question, namely:

- "Ask the Class"
- "50 : 50"
- "Use a Friend" (use a calculator)
- "Ask a Friend"



Each Lifeline can be used only once by a contestant. The quiz can be planned and structured as an individualised activity, involving one contestant at a time, but can also be implemented as a paired and collaborative activity involving two students.

The quiz is an effective medium for revising important numerical concepts and competencies. Follow-up discussions in class about the strategies and approaches, that were employed to calculate and identify the correct answer to specific questions, can be a valuable learning experience for the students by stimulating reflection, by providing opportunities for recapitulation and by increasing the students' repertoire of problem solving strategies and computational approaches.

The quiz content prioritises mental computation and provides a framework to support the development and extension of numerical understanding, skills and competencies. It can develop confidence in performing numerical and arithmetical operations, enhance mental computation, strengthen cognitive reasoning, improve pace of response and revise, reinforce and activate existing mathematical knowledge and understanding. It is also an activity that introduces a fun element to the teaching and learning of maths in a classroom setting. The "Number Millionaire" quiz can be structured as a recreational activity or as a planned and timetabled component in the maths classroom. A celebration event should be organised at the culmination of the quiz to acknowledge the students' engagement,

achievements and success. The “Number Millionaire” Teacher’s Manual contains a wide selection of numerical quiz questions.



Two information leaflets outlining the JCSP Literacy Strategy and the JCSP Numeracy Strategy are available from the JCSP office.

Readalong Guidelines

The new guidelines for Readalong along with a post-it are available to accompany the Initiative.

New & Improved Literacy Website

During the last few months we have been redeveloping the literacy and numeracy website and we hope it is a resource you will find both interesting and useful.

Through the website you will be able to access information about initiatives, literacy and numeracy strategies, developments in the JCSP libraries and upcoming events. In addition, you will be able to check in-service being offered and apply for those that are of interest to you. You will find research to download and a series of useful links. From the site you can read or download current and previous issues of the Newsletter.

There is also a log-in area for co-ordinators where you will be able to download extra resources and access the forum, which is new venture. We hope you will find it a useful means through which to discuss topics relevant to JCSP and exchange ideas. Please get in touch with us if you have any suggestions regarding the website.

You will find it at: www.jcspliteracy.ie



Catering for Diversity

Most of our schools now cater for students from many different cultures with many languages who require support in learning English as an additional language (EAL).

Teachers are constantly seeking information and resources to meet this exciting challenge, both in the EAL class and within mainstream subjects. Here are a number of websites which many principals and teachers are already finding useful.

1. National Council for Curriculum and Assessment

The intercultural education guidelines are useful to management and school communities in general.

This site also provides a downloadable copy of the Assessment Kit including the aural and visual elements and useful teachers' resources created by Integrate Ireland. www.ncca.ie

2. Second Level Support Service

Learning the English language is the most important task facing the new student if she or he wants to access all the curriculum. EAL and subject teachers can find more ideas and resources and information on the EAL page of the SLSS website.

The Second Level Support Service has delivered training for teachers and principals during 2008-09. Check the site for details of further training.

www.slss.ie

3. English Language Support Teachers' Association

Teachers can use this site for ideas and resources and to join in discussions on the forum. Teachers who become members of the association can access more resources and attend talks and conferences.

www.elsta.ie

4. Trinity Immigration Initiative

Resources for post-primary English language support and mainstream subject teachers and their students. All materials are based on Irish syllabi and textbooks.

www.elsp.ie

5. Jesuit Refugee Service

Resources developed for managers, teachers and parents by JRS Ireland School Integration Programme.

www.jrs.ie

New Competition Announced.....I'm a Winner

Inviting all students to write a poem or short story or create a digital story on any topic you choose, in English, Irish or any Modern Language. Alternatively, students can use their creativity to design a new JCSP postcard. The theme is I'm a Winner... Students can work on this competition as individuals, in pairs, in groups or as a whole class group. The stories, poems and artwork will appear on our website www.jcspliteracy.ie

Some will also be selected for the next edition of the JCSP Newsletter, available on-line at www.jcsp.ie.

Participating schools will receive book tokens.

Closing date: 18 December 2009

All entries to:

JCSP Support Service, Poetry 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

Comórtas Nua ... 'Is buaiteoir mise.'

Seo cuireadh do scoláirí dán nó gearrscéal a scríobh nó scéal méaraí a chumadh bunaithe ar ábhar, i mBéarla, i nGaeilge nó in aon nuatheanga ar bith. Nó, is féidir le scoláirí a bheith cruthaitheach agus cárta poist a dhearadh. 'Sé an téama ná 'Is buaiteoir mise'. Tá sé ceadaithe do scoláirí iarracht aonair, iarracht péire, iarracht ghrúpa nó iarracht ranga a chur isteach. Taispeánfar na scéalta, dánta agus obair ealaíne ar an suíomh ghréasáin,

www.jcspliteracy.ie

Roghnófar cuid de na hiarrachtaí le haghaidh an chéad eagrán eile den Nuachtlitir

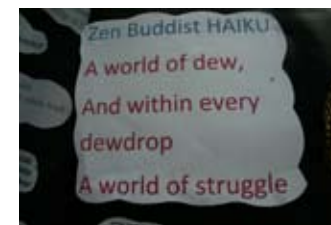
JCSP, a bheidh ar fáil ag www.jcsp.ie

Le bheith istigh ag an CDU ar an 18ú lá de Mí na Nollag, 2009.

Seoladh: Comórtas Filíochta, Tacaíocht Seirbhíse JCSP, CDU, Captain's Rd., Crumlin, D 12

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

Your poems could be a book for the Make a Book Exhibition in 2010! Like the exhibit of wonderful Haikus from Coláiste Mhuire Co Ed in Thurles at the 2009 Exhibition in Cork



Some useful Websites

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/text.htm#7>

There are some super ideas here for writing poetry. The site is very interactive and students can listen to poems being read.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/inspire/research/Hughes.pdf> An article on poetry

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/31170> Some handy tips for using poetry with EAL students

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/31170> This is an interesting website with a variety of approaches to writing poetry. There should be something there to suit every budding poet!

<http://www.poetryclass.net/kids.htm> A review of different poetry websites

http://www.tufts.edu/as/wright_center/iecws/materials/haiku_journey.pdf Writing Haikus. A website for young people that has some poetry on it which could be worth checking out

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.

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