

MEATH VEC

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News

EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

Coláiste na hInse ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Star-t up in the Neptune Hotel

There was great celebration all around the East Coast when County Meath VEC opened the doors to its new school, Coláiste na hInse. Coláiste na hInse commenced as a school on 26th August 2008 in the Neptune Hotel, Bettystown with 79 students. See page 5 for more pictures and news.



Students at commencement ceremony

5 Students - 47 A's at Junior Cert

Five VEC students who between them chalked up 47 A's in this year's Junior Certificate exams were special guests at the monthly meeting of the VEC where they were honoured for their results. See page 5.

NEW PRINCIPAL FOR ST. OLIVER POST PRIMARY SCHOOL, OLDCASTLE

Mr. Martin O' Reilly has recently been appointed as Principal of St. Oliver Posts Primary School, Oldcastle. Martin is a former pupil and the third Principal following in the footsteps of founder Mr. Larry Collins and his successor Mr. Finbarr O' Connor.



NÍ NEART GO CUR LE CÉILE

Being part of an education community such as the VEC is extremely beneficial in times of challenge. The VEC members and the leadership of this scheme will work tirelessly to save employment, protect budgets and maintain standards of excellence on behalf of our staff and learners during this economic downturn.



I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the many staff who have enabled County Meath VEC to rise to new levels of academic sporting and cultural success. Outstanding Leaving Certificate results have been achieved in schools followed by some really inspiring Junior Certificate results. Coláiste na hInse opened in the Neptune Hotel, Bettystown. The staff there had been meeting throughout the summer to plan and prepare. Student numbers again increased by 300 to stand now at 4,100 countywide. A new Principal in Oldcastle, Martin O' Reilly carves a special niche in VEC history being a past pupil and former staff member. In Navan Youthreach, David O' Connor takes over as Coordinator. As many as 100 new employees at all levels have joined our VEC this summer. Welcome to you all. I hope your employment with County Meath VEC works out well for you and for us.

Peter Kierans

Peter Kierans
Chief Executive Officer

THE EDUCATION CUTS

There is no avoiding the fact that County Meath VEC will be set back greatly in its work by the severity of the cutbacks. The full details have been emailed to every staff member. It is doubly difficult to handle cutbacks at a time of growth. (See page 6 for an outline of these cutbacks).

STAFF LAPTOP PURCHASE SCHEME (SEE PAGE 4)

Training for Boards of Management

Forty new Board of Management members attended a recent training evening for Board of Management members held in VEC Head Office, Abbey Road. The session was facilitated by the CEO, Mr. Peter Kierans and AEO, Mr. Christy Duffy.



Mr. Christy Duffy, AEO presenting at Board of Management training.

Representations from the new Coláiste na hInse Board were present as well as members of three newly set-up Boards for Youthreach.

Kells and Trim Youthreach have joint Boards of Management. Bettystown/Laytown Youthreach and Youthreach Ashbourne have also combined to form a Board and finally Navan Foundation, Progression and Hi-Way Youthreach have co-operated to form one Board.

The session covered the statutory basics for Boards of Management, the obligation on Boards, Agenda, Reporting, Section 29 and Inspections.

GRANTS WORKSHOP A GREAT SUCCESS

The Third Level Grants Section of County Meath VEC were very pleased with the response to its initiative to assist grant applicants with the completion of their forms. More than 90 parents or students attended the morning session and over 150 attended the evening ses-

sion at the VEC offices in Abbey Road Navan. The grants section staff including Georgina Coyle, Geraldine Smyth, Mary Keane, Claire Kennedy and Hazel Leahy made presentations detailing the level of income under which eligibility for full or part grants arises.



Ms. Georgina Coyle, Corporate Education Services addressing the crowd at the Grants Workshop

NEW RESOURCE PERSON AT ASHBOURNE YOUTHREACH



Mr. Enda McDonnell, recently appointed Resource Person in Ashbourne Youthreach graduated with an honours Degree in Business and a Honours Higher Diploma in Education from NUIG in 2004. Enda also holds a Diploma in Management Finance, Certificate in Business and IT and a Certificate in TEFL. He is a qualified GAA and Soccer Coach. Enda brings to Ashbourne a wealth of experience being a English Teacher in Australian College Of English in Sydney and a Resource Teacher in Blakestown Mountview Youth Initiative in Blanchardstown.

NEW STAFF AT ST. FINTINA'S, LONGWOOD



New Staff at St Fintina's Longwood - l to r - Shirley McDonagh, Business Studies; Joanne Callinan, Irish; Brendan Cantwell, Woodwork and Construction Studies and Fionnula McGuinness, French



Secretary for Coláiste na hInse Ms. Vanessa Kelly



Ken Flynn, New Religion Teacher in Beaufort College

New Teachers at St. Oliver Post Primary



L to R: John-Paul Breen English, Mark Carey Maths, Eileen Farrelly Chemistry, Biology and Maths. Missing from picture is Michelle Temple English and Resource.



Cliff Rayfus, teacher of Construction Studies and Tech Drawing, Beaufort College

NEW COORDINATOR AND RESOURCE PERSON FOR YOUTHREACH FOUNDATION, NAVAN



Mr. David O' Connor has recently been appointed Coordinator for Youthreach Foundation, Navan. David who worked as Resource Person in Ashbourne Youthreach for the past six years holds a Degree in Applied Cultural Studies from Dundalk Institute of Technology. He also holds qualifications in Information Technology, French and History. Ms. Vanessa Connell a native of Alberta, Canada has been appointed to County Meath VEC as Resource Person in Youthreach Foundation, Navan. She holds a Bachelor of Education, with distinction from University of Alberta. Vanessa has brought with her a vast amount of experience working with indigenous young people.

NEW HEAD OFFICE STAFF



L to R - Ms. Antonia Shelly, Finance, Mr. Michael Murphy, Support Staff, and Ms. Barbara Fegan, Human Resource.



TRAINING DAY FOR VECs

On the 9th September 2008 County Meath VEC facilitated a one day training session on the VEC Jobs website for VEC's wishing to move forward with this innovative recruitment process. The VEC Jobs website is a recruitment initiative devised by County Meath VEC. This initiative will promote employment within the VEC's and will also reduce the advertising costs for all 33 VEC's nationwide as the VEC's spend as much as €1 million each year in combined advertising costs.

10 VEC's participated in the training including Cavan, Louth, Monaghan, Co. Dublin, Tipperary North, Wicklow, Offaly, Westmeath and Laois. The training consisted of an introductory session and a practical session. In the practical session each VEC inputted a test advertisement and navigated through the website in order to become familiar with it. County Meath VEC's Project Officer, Ms. Sinéad Murphy organised the training and Biznet, the company which developed the website were on hand to offer training and advice on the day.

Meath VEC received have received positive feedback from all VEC's who participated in the training and look forward to working in partnership with these VEC's in the near future.

COUNTY MEATH VEC STAFF HANDBOOK

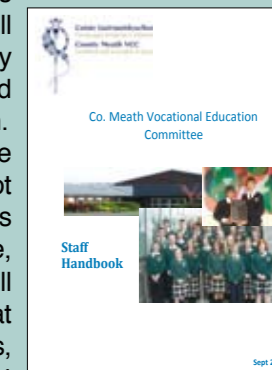
County Meath Vocational Education Committee is very pleased to launch its first general staff handbook. County Meath VEC is a large and complex organisation providing a wide range of services to people countywide. The purpose of this handbook is to provide members of staff with general information and advice about Co. Meath VEC.

This handbook provides information on HR policies and will help to inform staff as to what they may expect as employees and what is expected of them in return.

The material and advice contained in the handbook are not intended as definitive statements of conditions of service, leave, pay or conduct. The handbook will provide staff with information that is based on official documents, circular letters and legislation but does not replace them. In the event of you requiring greater detail on any of the areas covered, it is recommended that you consult with your line manager in the first instance in order to access the appropriate official documentation.

We hope the handbook will contribute to improving and maintaining the good human relations essential to the delivery of responsive and effective education services.

Please contact the Human Resource Section if you have any questions regarding this publication.



Craobh na hÉireann

Ar an 1ú Deireadh Fómhair chuaigh ceathrar dalta as Coláiste Pobail Domhnach Seachnaill mar aon lena múinteoir Róisín Ní Dhúshláine go hAlban. Bhuaigh Eachna Ní Riada, Joanne Ní Dhufaigh, Lily Ní Chathasaigh agus Sinéad Ní Cheallaigh (ionadaí) Craobh na hÉireann i gcomórtas díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh an bhliain seo caite agus bhí an turas seo mar chuid dá nduais. Ghlac siad páirt i bhfóram cainte. Bhí seans acu roinnt beag Gaidhlig na hAlban a fhoghlaim agus an chathair álainn Inbhir Nis a fheiceáil. Bhaineadar spórt agus spraoi as an oíche shóisialta a bhí acu ann agus bhlaiseadar do chultúr álainn na nGael. Rinne Gael Linn urraíocht ar an dturas bliantúil seo.



HOME GARDEN SCHEME



Pictured in the photograph is Mr. Pat Kenny, Science Teacher in Dunshaughlin Community College with students who organises the Home Garden Scheme.

St. Fintina's – Winners of the 2008 Secondary Schools Competition

Fifth Year Students from St Fintina's were feted in style in the European Parliament in Brussels, in June when they were declared winners of the prestigious 2008 Secondary Schools Competition, organised throughout EU member states by the UEN-EA Group in the Committee of the Regions, which represents local authorities all over Europe. The group which travelled to Brussels consisted of staff member Elaine Tiernan and students Dermot Connolly and Sarah Scanlon. The students were introduced to the President of the EU Committee of the Regions, by Longwood councillor and VEC Committee member Mr. Seamus Murray. St Fintina's representatives gave a special audio-visual presentation, which was warmly welcomed by all EU officials, Committee of the Regions members and educational body representatives. The award winning students were also hosted to a special dinner in Brussels.



DONAGHMORE, ASHBOURNE GAA CLUB

County Meath VEC at its monthly meeting in July, unveiled a historic agreement with Donaghmore/Cill Dealgán GAA club in Ashbourne. The VEC has become a tenant of the GAA club and use the Club facilities for its education services in the area.

County Meath VEC had been on the look-out for a suitable location for Community Education, Adult Guidance and Adult Literacy in the Ashbourne area. Chairman of County Meath VEC Mr. John Fanning a member of the Donaghmore/Cill Dealgán club came up with the novel idea.

BTEI classes are currently being held in the centres.



Mr. John Fanning, Chairman, Meath VEC addressing BTEI class in Donaghmore, Ashbourne GAA, Centre

COUNTY MEATH VEC LEAVING CERTIFICATE ACADEMIC AWARDS PRESENTATION

County Meath VEC wound up a very successful 2007/08 school year with its annual presentation of academic awards for the students from each of its schools and centres who had achieved the highest academic grades in this years Leaving Certificate. A very well attended awards ceremony in Coláiste Pobail Rath Cairn (on Friday, 12th September) saw students with their parents and family members receive specially engraved cut-glass Cavan Crystal awards marking their special achievements.

School Principals made short speeches of commendation for each student. At a time when the grind schools are pushing hard to strip away the brightest and the best from

the Leaving Certificate cohorts, Meath VEC Principals were able to show that their students receive the highest levels possible and yet retain that all round balance which they get in second level schooling. A particular feature of this years presentation were the awards made to students from two Youthreach programmes, John Joe Burke, Ashbourne Youthreach and Caoimhe Byrne, Youthreach Progression. There was one student from the County Meath VEC, VTOS Programme, Mr. James Clinton having returned to school as a mature adult, has now achieved his Leaving Certificate gaining four A1's.



VTOS STUDENTS VISIT TO THE BOYNE



VTOS students and teachers who enjoyed a day out at the battle of the Boyne Site at Slane, Co. Meath. From Left, (back): James Clinton, Tom O'Malley, Gary Gaynor, Colm Duffy, Geraldine Curtis, Pauline Finegan, Joe Canning, Joan Crinion, Josephine McGivern, Edel Gillick, Front Row: Paul Little, Des Crinion and Brian Walsh.

HEAD OFFICE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE



Pictured in the photograph (l to r) Front row: Ms. Breda Garvey, Ms. Geraldine Smyth, Ms. Carmel McEvoy, Ms. Hazel Leahy. Back row: L to r: Mr. Michael Murphy, Ms. Elma McMahon, Ms. Mary Keane, Ms. Bernadette Walsh, Mr. Des Stapleton, FWS Safety Consultant

Office 2007

Under our County Meath VEC campus agreement with Microsoft you are entitled to install Microsoft Office



2007 on your home PC or laptop. The CD is available from your school secretary or IT Coordinator. When you are purchasing a PC for yourself you do not need to purchase the Office package which could be a substantial saving for you.

STAFF LAPTOP PURCHASE SCHEME

County Meath VEC have emailed all staff with details of our staff Laptop Purchase Scheme.

Through our now well developed IT central purchase system we are in a position to negotiate a very good price for our own IT hardware and also to introduce a purchase scheme for staff.

You may purchase now and pay by deductions over a four month period. The Vostro laptop is of a very high specification, 2 core processor, 2GB of RAM and 250GB hard drive with a web cam built in. The price is €584 and the details and form are on your email.

COUNTY MEATH VEC HONOURS JUNIOR CERTIFICATE STUDENTS AT VEC COMMITTEE MEETING

Five VEC students who between them chalked up 47 A's in this year's Junior Certificate exams were special guests at the monthly meeting of Meath VEC where they were honoured for their achievements.

The students from St. Peter's College, Dunboyne; Coláiste Pobail Rathcairn and O' Carolan College, Nobber were accompanied by School Principals, Eamonn Gaffney, Macdara O' Dhuillearga and Brian Goggins and a large group of a family members. Each student introduced him/herself to the Committee Members and thanked their teachers and families for their support in the lead up to the exams.

They each then received a special presentation from Co. Meath VEC Chairperson, Mr. John Fanning.

The students were Maeve Slevin (10As), Sean Ryan (9As), Emily Glynn (9As) from St. Peter's College, Dunboyne; Cian MacGrianna (9As) from Coláiste Pobail Rathcairn and Jamie Byrne (10As) from O' Carolan College, Nobber.

Jamie Byrne summed up the feelings of all five students when he said "I turned 16 in the summer and I studied very hard. But I wouldn't have been able to do it without my teachers and my family".



L - R Emily Glynn, St. Peter's, Cian MacGrianna, Coláiste Pobail, Rathcairn, Maeve Slevin, St. Peter's, John Fanning, Chairman VEC, Sean Ryan, St. Peter's, Peter Kierans, CEO VEC, Jamie Byrne, O'Carolan College

Beaufort College Navan Demonstration Library - 1st in County Meath

Beaufort College, Navan has been nominated to receive a new library for the school together with the services of a qualified School Librarian.

The whole idea is much more than just a collection of books carefully catalogued. The librarian will work with school staff to develop an interest in reading and to integrate the library into the learning and teaching programme of the school. There will be well stocked teacher professional resource sections as well as books for students.

The library will be a very pleasant and attractive part of the school.



EPIC TEAM TO REVISIT SCHOOLS

Meath VEC first launched its Education Plan in 2006. This may seem like a long time ago. However the EPIC Committee have been busy revisiting goals to ensure the plan was brought to life during the past 3 years. Many of the goals stated in the Education Plan are now at 100% completion. At a recent meeting of the EPIC Committee it was decided that it was time for this Committee to revisit the schools, centres and programmes of Co. Meath VEC. They will update staff and receive views on what new aspects of education delivery should be incorporated in the plan.



COLÁISTE NA HINSE – A WONDERFUL START



Coláiste na Hinse is now more than two months old and houses itself in the former Neptune Hotel Bettystown. The Principal, Anne Marie McCarrick says "The teachers and students has settled into their new environment, it feels like we have always been here as students and teachers are going about their work with a great sense of purpose and excitement. Great support has been received from the local community, from parents and neighbours.



Board of Management - The Coláiste is developing structures and procedures which are part and parcel of school life. A Board of Management with staff, parents, VEC and Community representatives has been established and held its first meeting on the 5th November. Ms. Maeve Gallagher was elected as the 1st Chairperson of the Board.



The Coláiste has no gymnasium and minimal outdoor circulation space. What it does uniquely have is one of the best beaches on the East Coast outside its door. P.E, training of football and sports teams all takes place on the beach.

Among the extra-curricular clubs on offer in Coláiste na hinse are the science club, the debating society, sports clubs, traditional music clubs, the choir, board games, badminton, table-tennis, Club na Gaeilge and the film club.

THE BUDGET CUTS AS APPLIED TO SCHOOLS

Heading:	Number of Students	Euro Per Pupil	Status	Expected Loss
Transition Year	158	€100 per pupil	Being Discontinued	€15,800
Leaving Certificate Applied	120	€159 per pupil	Being Discontinued	€19,080
Junior Cert Schools Programme	31	€63 per pupil	Being Discontinued	€1,953
Physics and Chemistry	214	€13 per pupil	Being Discontinued	€2,782
Traveller Pupil Capitation	34	€427 per pupil	Being Reduced	Not yet known
Book Grant Scheme	1,255		Being Reduced	€67,896 (See below)

Book Grant Scheme

The three DEIS schools of County Meath VEC, Beaufort College, St. Fintina's Post Primary School, Longwood and O' Carolan College, Nobber will not be affected by the budget reductions. Six schools will have no Book Grants from the Department of Education and Science and this will greatly reduce their ability to run School Book Schemes. The reduction will amount to €67,896.

Teacher Cut backs

County Meath VEC has 3,197 students at 18:1 in the 2008/09 school year. At 19:1 this results in a loss of 9.35 teachers. There are 788 students at 16:1 in 2008/09 between PLC and LCVP. This will result in the loss of 2.89 in teacher allocation. There are 125 students participating in Leaving Certificate Applied Programmes. They are not included above as the impact of cutbacks on this programme is as yet unclear.

There are other potential staff reductions based on Language Support and Historic Allocation reductions giving a possible reduction of 20 teachers.

COUNTY MEATH VEC SUMMARY OF BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS

The Department of Education and Science have instructed County Meath VEC as follows:

- Achieve a 3% reduction in payroll costs in 2009
- Exclude teachers and SNAs in schools and approved centres providing full-time alternative provision from the 3% requirement (subject to the outcome of discussions between officials of the departments of education and finance)
- Commence immediately to apply whatever restrictions necessary to recruitment and other payroll costs (e.g. Overtime)
- Identify all possible further pay and non-pay efficiencies that can yield savings beyond the 3% level
- Reduce expenditure on consultancies, advertising and public relations significantly for the remainder of 2008 and by at least 50% in 2009
- Report to the department providing details of the progress being made in securing the required savings

Who does the 3% apply to?

- Support staff in schools and full time centres (Youthreach, VTOS, Traveller Education),
- All staff in head office,
- All staff in Community Education, Adult Literacy, Sessional Childcare, Back To Education, Adult Education Guidance and School Completion

Will there be job losses?

- If the cuts as announced are followed through without any reduction, some losses will inevitably occur. Growth in some schools will balance out expected reductions.

How will the reductions be achieved?

- Some activities in Community Education, Adult Literacy, Sessional Childcare, Back to Education Initiative, Adult Education Guidance and School Completion will be reduced
- Summer administration staff will be reduced
- Cover for administration leave will be reduced
- Maintenance allocation will be readjusted
- Restrict overtime

Could there be more cut backs?

- Yes. The Department have indicated that possible further tightening measures may be necessary as the year progresses.



VEC STUDENT EMAIL All VEC full time students including new students this year have got their lifetime email addresses. You should consider all way in which using these email addresses to communicate with students can improve communications, reduce the need for photocopying and printing. Where you ask students to email you please note that it is VEC policy that you only accept student mail from student VEC email addresses.

DUNSHAUGHLIN TEACHER AWARDED TEACHING COUNCIL BURSARY.

Dunshaughlin Community College teacher Margaret Deegan was awarded a research bursary by the Teaching Council recently. Margaret was one of twenty teachers nationally who received bursaries of more than €100,000 overall as part of the Teaching Council's second scheme of research bursaries.



Meath Bursary Recipient Margaret Deegan with Teaching Council Chairperson, Joan Ward and Aine Lawlor, Teaching Council Director.

Margaret, who is currently studying for an M.Sc. in Technology and Education with Trinity College, was awarded the bursary in respect of the research into the introduction and development of WebQuests and Wikis as collaborative teaching, learning and reflective artefacts in Dunshaughlin Community College. This work was implemented by Muireann Nic an Ri and Transition Year students in D.C.C. and is highly innovative, benefitting both students and teachers within Dunshaughlin Community College and the wider VEC community.

1st VEC with Intranet

County Meath VEC will be the first VEC to provide a secure Intranet for all staff and pupils before the end of 2008. Following from the earlier initiatives to provide email for all staff in 2006 and more recently email for all students, this exciting development will provide leading edge facilities for school based sharing of documents and learning materials. All staff will be getting their usernames and passwords before Christmas and basic training to use the system will be available on-line and through our 21st Century Learning Advisor, Ms. Rose Lawlor. The system is based on Microsoft Sharepoint and will be available both in schools and over the internet. The completed system has been designed and installed by MIT Waterford.



100 YEARS OF EDUCATION IN COUNTY MEATH VEC CIVIC RECEPTION

Meath County Council recognised and honored the work of generations of teachers, principals, administrators, past pupils and Statutory Committees with a Civic Reception in the County Hall on Monday, 12th November

Technical Education in County Meath started life under a unionist structure which was the Joint Technical Instruction Committee and migrated without rancour or division to become the VEC after the passing of the 1930 VEC Act. Many visionary people have led the growth of the VEC and of Technical and Skills education. Many successful businesses and careers have been launched from VEC schools. Principals have grown the size and reputation of their schools even when finances were meagre.

Today County Meath VEC employs 650 staff in 9 schools, 6 Youthreach Programmes, Traveller Training, Back to Education Initiative and Community Education.

We truly owe a depth of gratitude to the four Chief Executive Officers, the Head Office Staff, to the Principals and teachers in the schools and to the leaders in the great range of programmes.



FIRST JUNIOR CERTIFICATE CLASS IN RATOATH



Pictured in the Photograph are students from the first Junior Certificate class in Ratoath College with their Principal Ms. Máire Ní Bhroithe

BTEI Hairdressing course in Kells



Meath VEC's Musical Extravaganza in the Solstice Arts Centre - 2008

Over 170 young people from all over County Meath took part in a Musical Extravaganza in the Solstice Arts Centre on the 9th May hosted by Meath VEC.

Schools from across the county were involved in this venture along with two Youthreach Centres. Schools involved were Ratoath College, O Carolan College (Nobber), St Oliver's Post Primary (Oldcastle), Coláiste Pobail (Rathcáirn), Beaufort College (Navan), St Peters College (Dunboyne), St Fintina's (Longwood). Trim and Laytown/Bettystown Youthreach Centres were also involved.

There was standing room only in the 320 seat Solstice and many people were disappointed not to get tickets.

The talent on show included solo musical performances,

National Irish Dancing Champions, orchestras and choirs as well as dramatic performances. There was something for everything during the night and while one act may not have been your 'cup of tea', it was guaranteed that the next performance certainly would be. The young people were rehearsing for weeks and sometimes months for this special performance. Some acts e.g. choirs or orchestras practice on a daily basis but some other acts including the dramatic performances and the bands were developed especially for the show.

Mr John Fanning, Chairman of County Meath VEC addressed the packed house and said how proud he was of County Meath VEC and of all the young people and their parents.



MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA 2009

This year the County Meath VEC Musical Extravaganza will take place over two nights, the 29th and 30th January in the Solstice Arts Theatre, Navan. Such is the pressure for performance spaces and tickets that the team of teachers under the co-ordination of Elma McMahon, Youth Officer have decided to extend the event to two nights.

Coláiste na hInse are taking part for the first time along with 2 other new centres. There are more teachers and students involved this year. They were restricted to the nights that they could have as they needed to be mindful of the school commitments e.g. the mocks, talent shows, orals etc.

Once again the principals and coordinators are fully supportive of this venture and it could not happen without their full cooperation. The highlight this year will be a collaboration of schools for the finale which promises to be fantastic.

All in all over 200 pupils, 43 teachers, 9 schools and 4 centres will be involved in the venture.



MUSICAL ORGANISERS FROM SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OF MEATH VEC

Pictured in photograph Back row: l to r: Elma McMahon, Youth Officer & Coordinator, Kate Geoghegan, Bettystown, Laytown Youthreach, Carmel Quigley, O' Carolan College, Nobber, Grainne Ní Riain, Coláiste Pobail Rathcáirn, Caitriona Feeney, Youthreach Trim. Front row l to r: Deirdre Shine, St. Fintina's Post Primary Longwood, Paola Cullen, Ratoath College, Dearbhla Garrett, Ratoath College, Peter Kierans, CEO, Meath VEC

YOUNG HISTORIAN COMPETITION 2008 History Teachers of Meath VEC Schools



Back row: (l to r) Brian Walshe, Helen Loftus, Mary Duff, Seamus Ryan, Amanda Scully, Elaine Cowley, Front row: (l to r) Peter Kierans, Cathy Loughrey, Michelle Byrne, Ann Daly and Josephine Meel.
Left: Beaufort College student winner of young Historian Liliana Czop



Retirements



MR. FINBARR O' CONNOR

Mr. Finbarr O' Connor has recently retired from the position of Principal in St. Oliver Post Primary School, Oldcastle. Mr. O' Connor commenced as Principal of St. Oliver in and held the position for 12 years. He oversaw the building of the new school during 2000/01 and the acquisition of additional land by the school for playing pitches. Mr. O' Connor spent almost all his teaching career in Oldcastle starting there in 1971 as a teacher of English and Irish. Finbarr built up the reputation of St. Oliver school and brought enrolment to the highest level ever in the year of his retirement.



MRS. AGNES COLGAN

Mrs. Agnes Colgan is retiring after a career spent teaching in St Oliver Post Primary since 1977 where she taught Physical Education and Religion at all levels. Mrs. Colgan was very involved with the Student Council since its establishment in 2000. Due to her hard work and commitment the success of the Student Council has been tremendous with its legacy being evident within the school and wider community. Mrs Colgan was most popular and well thought of by students, parents and colleagues alike and will be missed at St Oliver Post Primary.



MR. PADDY TRAYNOR

Mr. Paddy Traynor who retired from St. Oliver Post Primary this year. He commenced his career with Meath VEC as a teacher of Maths and Physics in St Oliver Post Primary, Oldcastle in 1977. Mr Traynor had a very keen interest in sporting activities and in particular Ladies football, coaching many panels throughout his years in St Oliver Post Primary. Mr. Traynor made a lasting impression on the Maths and in particular the Science Department at St. Oliver Post Primary. Paddy was also well respected former Meath County footballer. The staff and students in St. Oliver look forward to seeing Mr. Traynor at some of their future games.



MS. MARIE CONDON

Ms Marie Condon had a long and successful teaching career with Meath VEC. As a young graduate from UCD, she taught Irish in O'Carolan College, Nobber, for several years. Having taken a break for family reasons, she returned to work in the early 1990's on the Meath VEC Adult Education Literacy Scheme, which she helped to initiate and develop. She had special responsibility, as Literacy Organiser, for the provision and further development of Literacy (both day-time and evening) in the Navan area. She also taught Irish and Study Skills on VTOS in Abbey Road, Navan, where she was a very popular and compassionate tutor. She will be greatly missed by all her colleagues and students for whom she never hesitated to walk the extra mile.



MS. ANNE LYDON

Ms. Anne Lydon commenced as a teacher of Home Economics in the Travellers Training Centre in 1985. Over the next two decades she expanded her role to include all areas of personnel development and Health Promotion Anne had experience of working at different times in Youthreach, VTOS and various adult education initiatives. Throughout all this time, Anne's priority was the well being of all her students and she will be greatly missed by all in the centre.



MR. JAMES BANNON

Mr. James Bannon who retired from Beaufort College as a teacher of Materials Technology Wood. Jim was known for his good humour and commitment to excellence in education. He was an active member of the Construction Studies Teachers Association and became National President of that Association. A commitment to the Third World previously spending two years in Lesotho, He is soon on his way to South Africa with the Niall Melon Trust. He will be sadly missed by students and staff in Beaufort College. We wish him all the best in the future.

APPOINTMENTS SCHOOL YEAR 2008/09

NAME:	SCHOOL/CENTRE:	POSITION:
Nicola Sheridan	Beaufort College	English - PWT
Janet Brooks	Beaufort College	French - PWT
Ann-Marie Kennedy	Beaufort College	English with TEFL - PRPT
Cliff Rayfus	Beaufort College	Construction Studies & Tech Drawing - PRPT
Ken Flynn	Beaufort College	Religion - PRPT
Deirdre Quinn	Beaufort College	Gaeilge - P/T Maternity Cover
Stephen Smith	Beaufort College	PE - P/T - Maternity Cover
Andrea Martin	Beaufort College	SNA
Elaine Fitzgerald	Beaufort College	SNA
Karen Tobin	Beaufort College	Maths/Resource PRPT

Stefania Tornambene	CES, Dunshaughlin	German - PRPT
Rita Riscardo Jorge	CES, Dunshaughlin	Portuguese - PRPT
Caroline Aoust	CES, Dunshaughlin	French - PRPT

Martin Mc Cabe	Coláiste na hinse	Constructions Studies & Tech Drawing- PRPT
Gordon Gallagher	Coláiste na hinse	Gaeilge -PWT
Leona Mc Cormack	Coláiste na hinse	Maths with Science - PWT
Deborah O'Neill	Coláiste na hinse	English and another subject PRPT
Sally Rooney	Coláiste na hinse	Home Economics - PRPT
Charlotte Callaghan	Coláiste na hinse	French - PRPT
Sarah Broderick	Coláiste na hinse	French - P/T
Vanessa Kelly	Coláiste na hinse	P/T Clerical Officer, Grade III
Mary Kennedy	Coláiste na hinse	SNA
Brian Emmett	Coláiste na hinse	Caretaker

Oisin Farry	Coláiste Pobail	Béarla - PRPT
Gráinne Ní Riain	Coláiste Pobail	Music with another subject - PRPT

James Cumiskey	Dunshaughlin CC	Business - PWT
Catrina Solan	Dunshaughlin CC	Music with another subject - PRPT
Jacqueline Mullen	Dunshaughlin CC	Gaeilge - P/T
Maura Jane Nulty	Dunshaughlin CC	English - P/T
Jenna McGillivray	Dunshaughlin CC	Religion/English - PRPT
Finola Feeley	Dunshaughlin CC	SNA
Róisín Ní Dhushlaine	Dunshaughlin CC	Gaeilge/French PWT

Brian Murray	O'Carolan College	Geography - PWT
Amanda Scully	O'Carolan College	History - PWT
Regina Mulligan	O'Carolan College	French - PWT
Carmel Quigley	O'Carolan College	Music - PWT
Eoin Winters	O'Carolan College	Religion - PWT
Jonathan Irwin	O'Carolan College	Construction Studies - PRPT
Caroline Mitchell	O'Carolan College	Maths - PRPT
Sinead Feeney	O'Carolan College	English with TEFL - PRPT
Aileen Brady	O'Carolan College	Physical Education - PRPT
Yasmin Gray	O'Carolan College	French with another subject - PRPT

Donna Kelly	Ratoath College	English and History PWT
Eric Hannon	Ratoath College	Materials Technology - Metal PWT
Niamh Mc Quillan	Ratoath College	Religion & another subject - PWT
Ursula Hynes	Ratoath College	Business - PWT
Kerry-Lynn Martin	Ratoath College	Religion and another subject -PRPT
Eimear Kilrane	Ratoath College	Gaeilge - PWT
Declan Qualter	Ratoath College	Career Guidance & another subject PRPT

David Walsh	Ratoath College	Accounting & another subject - PRPT
Teresa Kelly	Ratoath College	Chemistry with another subject - PRPT
Amanda Sweeney	Ratoath College	Geography with Irish - PWT
Fiona Reid	Ratoath College	P.E & another subject - PWT
Derbhla Garrett	Ratoath College	Gaeilge - PRPT
Aisling Savage	Ratoath College	Religion and another subject PRPT
Deirdre Brennan	Ratoath College	Chemistry with another subject - PRPT
Ivor Keane	Ratoath College	Geography and another subject - PRPT

Donna Brennan	Ratoath College	Maths - PRPT
Patrick Mc Auley	Ratoath College	Italian with French - PRPT
Michelle Heneghan	Ratoath College	English with Learning Support - PRPT
Helen Mortimer	Ratoath College	Art - PRPT
Caroline Barry	Ratoath College	Home Economics - PRPT
John McCarthy	Ratoath College	English and History - P/T
Patrick Cannon	Ratoath College	SNA
Ann Daly	Ratoath College	Assistant Principal - POR
Gillian Brennan	Ratoath College	Assistant Principal - POR
Ciarán O' Hare	Ratoath College	Assistant Principal - POR
Yvonne Gray Smart	Ratoath College	Clerical Officer

NAME:	SCHOOL/CENTRE:	POSITION:
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Fionnuala McGuinness	St Fintina's PP	French - PRPT
Sandra O' Rafferty	St Fintina's PP	Programme Co-ordinator Special Duties - POR
Sandra O' Rafferty	St Fintina's PP	Special Duties - POR
Sandra O' Rafferty	St Fintina's PP	Maths - PWT
Deirdre Shine	St Fintina's PP	English and History - PWT
Shirley McDonagh	St Fintina's PP	Business - PRPT
Brendan Cantwell	St Fintina's PP	Woodwork - PRPT

Martin O'Reilly	St Oliver PP	Principal
Anne Duggan	St Oliver PP	English and French PWT
John Paul Breen	St. Oliver PP	English with Geography - PRPT
Denise Svensson	St. Oliver PP	SNA
Mark Carey	St. Oliver PP	Maths - PRPT
Michele Temple	St. Oliver PP	English - PRPT

Colm Colleran	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	Construction Studies/Tech Drawing - PWT
Michael Scully	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	Religion - PWT
Caroline Toole	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	Maths - PWT
Brenda Murphy	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	Maths and Geography - PWT
Donna O'Brien	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	English and Religion - PWT
Louise Biggins	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	Religion with History - PRPT
Rachel Glen	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	Religion with History - PRPT
Emma Shields	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	French With Spanish - PRPT
Dawn Ni Mhuineacháin	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	Gaeilge - PWT
Siobhan Reaney	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	Gaeilge - PRPT
Gemma Cooney	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	Business - P/T
Con McMahon	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	Accounts/Economics - P/T
Alan Toner	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	English/French - P/T
Louise McCarthy	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	SNA
Sarah Boles	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	P.E - PRPT
Siobhán Synan	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	Biology - PRPT
Michelle Conway	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	Music and Geography

Rose Lawlor	Head Office, Admin	IT Tutor Trainer
Barbara Fegan	Admin Office - HR	Clerical Officer - Maternity leave cover
Antonia Shelley	Admin Office - Finance	P/T Clerical Officer
Michael Murphy	Head Office, Admin	Caretaker - TWT
David O' Connor	Youthreach Foundation	Co-Ordinator
Ben Nolan	Youthreach Trim	P/T Tutor Construction Studies
Vanessa Connell	Youthreach Foundation	Resource Person
Catherine Ennis	Adult Literacy	Adult Literacy Development Officer

Enda McDonnell	Ashbourne Youthreach	Resource Person
Brid Hickey	Youthreach Laytown	Childcare Tutor
Jennifer Yore	Youthreach Laytown	P/T Clerical Officer, Grade III
Ben Nolan	Youthreach Trim	P/T Tutor Construction Studies

Defibrillator Training for Schools

84 teachers were trained to use our new defibrillator units during the week commencing 3rd March 2008. Elma McMahon attended the Trainer Training in October which means that we have our own tutor on site who can retrain our teachers and students when necessary. It is generally recommended that this happens every 90-180 days. After the initial retraining we can look to accommodating the other interested members of staff and students. Elma is available to liaise with schools and teachers to discuss any queries they may have with regard to DEFIBS and CPR. You can contact Elma at elma.mcmahon@meathvec.ie

Elma's initial job will be to check all the defibs in the schools and to provide the necessary upskilling of teachers and students initially trained in March 2008 so schools can expect to hear from her soon.



MEATH VEC GOING GREEN

Co. Meath VEC recently set up "The Green Team", a Green Working Committee in Head Office, Navan. "The objectives of the Team are to reduce our carbon footprint, to educate ourselves and our colleagues on going green, cost savings and to lead by example" says convener Sinead Murphy.

The Committee have introduced comprehensive recycling in Head Office and energy saving initiatives which include timers for equipment such as water coolers and thermostatic controls for radiators. The Team meet regularly and hope to become a leader in the field and be an example to all our schools and centres, many of whom are undertaking to become An Taisce Green Schools.



Photograph shows (L to r): Claire Kennedy, Mary Keane, Carmel Carey, Michael Murphy, Ciara Flood, Sinéad Murphy, Lorraine Peyton, Carmel McEvoy. (Missing from the picture: Ms. Elma McMahon)

BUILDING REPORT TWO SCHOOL EXTENSIONS NOW UNDERWAY

It's not all doom and gloom. Two major building projects have commenced at schools at opposite ends of County Meath.

St. Oliver Post Primary School, Oldcastle has builders on site adding four classrooms, male and female student toilets and site upgrade. St. Peter's College, Dunboyne has eventually got the green light for work to commence on the 3,000m² extension.

Coincidentally Ms. Ann Blackwell, VEC Consultant Architect was the designer of both schools and now oversees the final step in each project.

The current St. Oliver was a complete re-build of an old school, and was completed in 2001. The new school was built for 400 pupils but the design was based on the old template which made little provision for Special Needs or Pastoral offices. Numbers now stand at 430 pupils approximately. The Department of Education and Science provided the VEC with a fixed grant with the option to purchase prefabs or to build. In the current building environment there was good value on offer in tenders and St. Oliver Post Primary School will benefit greatly from having extra classrooms and student toilets.



St. Peter's College, Dunboyne was commenced in 1995 with a 1st phase for 190 pupils. Four more sections were added in the intervening years as the school grew to its current enrolment of 1150 pupils. A highly successful Post Leaving Certificate College

KELLS YOUTHREACH STUDENTS RECEIVE GAISCE AWARDS



Pictured in the photograph above are Kells Youthreach Coordinator Ms. Fiona Graham and Resource Person, Siobhan Finnegan with Students from the centre receiving their Gaisce award from President Mary McAleese.

BEAUFORT COLLEGE - WINNERS AGRI AWARE'S OUR FOOD - YOUR WAY! HEALTHY EATING CHALLENGE



The competition supported by Bord Bia, aims to promote the importance of sourcing local Irish food produce and healthy eating. The All-Ireland competition was won by Beaufort College, Navan, Co. Meath. There were 500 entrants.

LCA students in Dunshaughlin

LCA students will be the first to get their own laptops for use on the course. Students will be renting the laptops which will have the future LCA programme pre-loaded. It is hoped to make use of the laptops in 5 subjects initially and allow students to bring their laptops home at weekends. If the initiative is successful in enhancing the student's engagement with their course work then we hope to extend it to other LCA courses in other schools next year. For more information see Sharepoint.



also added to the pressure on accommodation. A plan for a major extension was approved by the Department of Education and Science in 2005 and all of the lead-in design, preparation and tendering was completed by early 2007. The project stalled at the last hurdle when tenders were submitted to the Department of Education and Science in September 2007 and the normal letter to commence building work did not follow. The announcement by the Minister for Education and Science that St. Peter's College, Dunboyne was one of only three 2nd level projects being let proceed, was greeted with delight by all in County Meath VEC but was especially welcomed by staff and students at St. Peter's. The project will be completed in Autumn 2008 and will cost in excess of €5 million.

TEACHER COLLABORATION



All VEC schools and programmes will have access to a leading edge Microsoft Collaboration system which was only available in Dunshaughlin Community College up to now. It is called Sharepoint and all staff will be issued with user names and passwords during November. Using this secure system subject Departments in each school can have a secure space to share their subject documents, plans, shared files and any other digital learning resources. Indeed teachers from different schools can have a shared space for collaboration. Also Sharepoint sites are very useful for school communities to manage documents, especially "School Development Planning" and can facilitate staff consultation and feedback on all school policies and plans. For more information see www.meathvec.ie/sharepoint. Rose Lawlor our 21st Century

ry Advisor is available to help each school/centre or programme set up and use Sharepoint. Rose has been working since the start of the year to help staff incorporate IT in their learning and teaching. Over the coming months Rose will be available to help all VEC staff get the maximum benefit from Sharepoint and Studywiz as new and innovative services to support all our learners. To find out more about Sharepoint and Studywiz visit www.meathvec.ie and log onto Sharepoint.

To book training in any 21st Century Learning tool (Office 2008, Sharepoint, Studywiz, Eportal etc) email rose.lawlor@meathvec.ie



Coláiste na hInse Caretaker commended for bravery

Brian Emmett commenced his new job as caretaker of Coláiste na hInse in late August. There was plenty to be getting on with in creating classrooms out of lounges, kitchens and lobby. Little did Brian realise that within weeks he would be centre stage as hero of the school following the crash of a helicopter in the grounds of the Coláiste.

Brian assisted the pilot to safety and then helped a lady out of the path of the several explosions as the helicopter turned into a fireball. All staff in County Meath VEC are proud of Brian's courage and alertness. The staff and students of Coláiste na hInse made a special presentation to Brian following their commencement mass.



TRAVELLERS EDUCATION CENTRE LAUNCH MATERNITY DVD

Niall Crowley, C.E.O. Equality Authority, launched a D.V.D. on Maternity Services in the North-east at on Monday October 6th in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda. This D.V.D. is the result of a unique collaboration between Navan Travellers Education Centre, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Maternity Services and the Meath Traveller Primary Health Care Project.

MAEGS Clients Progress to Higher Levels.



This year, an unprecedented number of MAEGS clients have been offered places on Higher Education Programmes. In all 45 clients have been offered places on full-time courses while a further 3, that we are aware of to-date, have been offered places on part-time Higher Education programmes. This total of 48 candidates progressing on to HEIs represents a significant increase in the number of MAEGS clients progressing on to Higher Education in 2007. All but a very small number of the successful candidates have progressed on from Co. Meath VEC Literacy, VTOS, Community Education, BTEI and PLC Courses. CAO offers to MAEGS Clients include Landscape Architecture in UCD, Interior Architecture in IT Sligo, Social Science in NUIM, Psychology in NUIM, Computer Science in TCD, Childhood Studies in IT Carlow, Social Care in ITB and DKIT, Nursing, Arts, Business, and Physics.

PHILOSOPHER GUEST OF COUNTY MEATH VEC



Pictured in the photograph (l to r): Back Row: Mr. Eamon Cooney, CEO, County Louth VEC, Mr. Peter Kierans, CEO, County Meath VEC, Mr. Seamus Ryan, Education Officer, County Meath VEC, Front Row: Mr. John Fanning, Chairman, County Meath VEC, Mr. Edward De Bono, Mr. Nick Killian, Chairman, Meath County Council