

Special points of interest:

- Le Chéile School Year
- Peer Ministry
- New Boards of Management
- School News
- Remembering our loved ones
- NCCA Junior Certificate consultation

*With cut-offs of black calico,
Remnants of old blackout blinds
Ironed, tacked with criss-cross threads,
We jacketed the issued books*

*Brown parcel paper, if need be.
Newsprint, even. Anything
to make a covert for the newness,
Learn you were a keeper only.*

*A vision of the school the school
Won't understand, nor I, not quite:
My hand in the cold of a running stream
Suspended, a glass beaker dipped*

*And filling in the flow. I'm sent,
The privileged one, for water
To turn ink powder into ink ...*



This poem from Seamus Heaney's latest collection, *Human Chain*, will evoke different thoughts for different people. It appears to invite reflection on education and our role in it. The idea that we are "A keeper only" ... merely custodians, is one that suggests humility and yet requires careful attention lest the flame go out. We only exercise our role in teaching and learning for a short time relative to the life of the school. So we have the serious task of preparing the way for others who come after us.... just as we ourselves are the inheritors of a great tradition.

Vision is vital and is the core of what we are about in the Le Chéile Trust. The founders of congregations demonstrated that the Spirit moves in different ways gifting us to do different things but always towards the same end— enhancing the dignity of the human person through the medium of education.

The role of teacher, and principal, is a privileged one – we are called to turn the powder into ink, to play our part in the production of a unique manuscript, not always understanding how but trusting that this amazing process takes place in and through us.

Previous issues of the Le Chéile Newsletter and other related publications are available on the publications page of the Le Chéile website.



**LE CHÉILE
TRUST**

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November Reflection

We remember our deceased students, staff and members of our congregation in our prayers at this time and a Mass will be celebrated in their memory and to remember the friends and loved ones of all our Le Cheile Community.



Honour the wisdom of those who went before you.
 Bind it ever to your heart
 Tie it around your neck.
 When you walk, it will lead you,
 When you lie down, it will watch over you,
 When you wake it, it will talk to you!

Proverbs 6:20-22

A brief service of remembrance is available on our website.

SHAPING THE NEW JUNIOR CYCLE

The NCCA consultation process on the future shape of the Junior cycle is currently underway and nearing completion. School communities and individuals are invited to participate in this important process. If you would like to become involved by answering a questionnaire, adding your comment to the blog or just find out more about the process and what it might lead to in our schools visit the NCCA website where there is a number very user friendly techniques for accessing the material (www.ncca.ie) .



St. Michael's College Finglas SAGE Team in Africa

This summer, St Michael's Holy Faith School in Finglas represented Ireland in the SAGE World Cup final in Cape Town, South Africa. Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship—SAGE—is an international network that links teams of secondary school students to nearby university students, business leaders and civic leaders. The SAGE mission is to help create the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders whose innovations and social enterprises address the major unmet needs of our global community. Each SAGE school is asked to complete activities during the year that meet the ten judging criteria.

The St Michael's girls won the 'SPIRIT AWARD' for bringing energy and enthusiasm to the SAGE family and for sharing their culture and charisma with everyone. The team thoroughly enjoyed their trip which was full of many great memories and experiences.

The photograph below shows the girls from St Michaels TY with two of their teachers attending the SAGE World Cup final in Cape Town



Special Congratulations and good wishes go to the Congregation of the Holy Faith this year as they celebrate the bi centenary of the birth of Margaret Aylward their foundress. This remarkable woman who was born in 1810 in Waterford moved to Dublin where, horrified by the poverty and degradation endured by so many of the population, she devoted herself to the care and education of the poorest orphans. Rather than setting up orphanages she believed that fosterage offered the best opportunity for these children. Over a period of time which involved much soul searching and even a spell in prison Margaret and her companions came to an understanding of their calling and were overjoyed when, in 1867, the Sisters of the Holy Faith received approval as a religious congregation. Events to mark the life of this great woman and her contribution to Irish society will be taking place throughout the year in our Holy Faith Schools.



Best wishes to Patrician College, Newbridge Co Kildare who are celebrating their Golden Jubilee this year. Among the memorable occasions that have taken place so far have been the Golden Jubilee Mass, the visit to the school of All Star Past Pupils, Dermot Early, Johnny Doyle and Peter Kelly (pictured on the left) and the visit by the Tánaiste and Minister for Education Ms Mary Coughlan.

Peer Ministry



True or false? 5th Year students have been teaching 1st Year Religion classes in St. Louis Secondary School, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan, for the past twenty-seven years? It's true! It's called Peer Ministry. Every year around twenty-four 5th Years successfully complete the Peer Ministry Programme. Students apply to become Peer Ministers at the beginning of 5th Year. Successful candidates, who are selected by teachers, then work in teams of six. After a full "Peer Ministry Training Day" with the teacher who coordinates the programme, the girls can't wait to meet their 1st Year classes and begin their Peer Ministry work.

Peer Ministry is part of the 1st and 5th Year Religious Education programme. It is a hugely popular programme of great benefit to both 1st and 5th Years. It helps to ease the transition into secondary school for 1st Years and is a vital aspect of the school's pastoral care. The programme provides an opportunity for young people to share their gifts and talents with other young people in an atmosphere of goodwill, co-operation, creativity and enthusiasm. Both 1st Years and 5th Years develop valuable skills and learning experiences from the preparation and delivery of their classes. First years are helped in getting to know one another better and their world of secondary education is enhanced by the special friendships that are often formed with their Peer Ministers.

"We cannot hold a torch to light another person's path without brightening our own."

-Ben Sweetland.

Happy days in Salerno College Galway! In October a signing ceremony took place to mark the beginning of construction of a new wing in the school. Students, staff and board members were all on hand to witness the occasion. The new twelve-classroom extension will give much needed additional space for the hugely overcrowded school. Sr. Gerarda, the Principal is ecstatic about the future "I have been waiting for this day for the last 15 years" she said at the signing on Friday last. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank the successive boards of management, past-pupils and retired staff who worked tirelessly to make this a reality. It is a dream come true."



Visit www.lecheiletrust.ie for further news items, logo's, photographs and archive materials. If you have any news items or pictures that you would like to see on our website please send them in!!

Welcome and congratulations to our new students, staff and leaders

Early in the school year, Le Chéile held three induction sessions for teachers newly appointed to Le Chéile schools. The focus of these induction sessions was to familiarise participants with the Le Chéile Charter, including their own school's Heritage. The sessions facilitated teachers in reflecting on the values that underpin their work. Their enthusiasm and openness was inspiring—they entered into the spirit of “Le Chéile” by quickly exchanging contact details!

Congratulations to two recently appointed Deputy Principals who took up their new roles on 1st November: Orla Lambert, St. Joseph of Cluny, Killiney and Mary Anne Fogarty, Patrician College, Fethard.



Handover ceremony in St Aloysius, Carrigtwohill
Ceremonies to mark the handover of Trusteeship to Le Chéile have taken place in a number of our schools. In October the two schools of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, St Aloysius in Carrigtwohill, Co Cork and Manor House in Raheny Dublin, celebrated this event. The Mother General of the Congregation Sr Mary Whelan attended both ceremonies as did many of the sisters who taught in the schools over the years.

Members of the Executive also attended a handover ceremony in St Benildus, Kimacud, Dublin in September.

Key Dates: Nov 2010 —Feb 2011

25th November—Meeting of Le Chéile Deputy Principals in Avila (beside the Le Chéile office) in, Donnybrook.

December—Cluster Meetings for Principals and Chairpersons and Meeting for Community Schools Principals and Chairpersons / Trustee Nominees

31st January - 4th February Catholic Schools Week and Le Chéile Day

3rd and 4th February Le Chéile Conference and Student Event (Citywest Hotel Dublin)

A Gentle reminder: Accounts are to be submitted to the Le Chéile office in the coming weeks

RE cluster meetings will take place in March April - details in January.

A joint meeting of the Síol and Le Chéile Boards of Directors will take place in January

Boards of Management

Congratulations to all newly appointed members of Boards of Management.

Education Act S.15(i) “It shall be the duty of a Board to manage the school on behalf of the Patron (Trustees) and for the benefit of the students and their parents and to provide or cause to be provided an appropriate education for each student at the school for which that Board has responsibility”

The Board plays a vital role in nurturing and developing the ethos of the school and Le Cheile would like to thank all those who have agreed to serve on a Board and all those who assisted in the nomination of members. All Board members are reminded to complete and return to Le Chéile the form indicating their willingness to serve on the Board.

The Board is guided in its work by the documents:-

- ◆ Articles of Management, printed in the JMB Guidelines for Boards of Management 2007.
- ◆ Le Cheile Charter
- ◆ School Mission and Vision
- ◆ FSSU Financial Guidelines
- ◆ Education Act 1998

For further information about training sessions being held in November, facilitated by JMB and members of the Trusts, please contact the Le Chéile office.

The Le Chéile team looks forward to meeting all newly appointed Boards during the course of the year.

