



Le Chéile Update

Le Chéile Christmas Edition 2015

Volume 8 Issue 5

Christmas 2015

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Words to the Wise

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

Calvin Coolidge



LE CHÉILE TRUST

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*May your Christmas be filled with the
light of hope, the joy of celebration
and the gift of sharing.*

*Síocháin Dé go raibh in ár measc
grásta Dé go raibh in ár gcoi.*



As we come to the end of a very busy school term, we take this opportunity to thank Boards of Management, Principals and all members of our school communities for their hard work and dedication to the education of young people in their care.

Le Chéile Secondary School—the sod is turned!

A simple celebration of the commencement of the building work took place on 11th December. The photos show the beautiful blue sky — one dry day in the middle of days of rain. The Lord was looking down on us!

We asked God's blessing on the architects, builders and all involved in this major building project and his continuing blessings on the whole school community.



Leona Harrington (deputy principal), Chike Okafor (1st year student) and Aine Moran (principal)



Thérèse Davey, Sean Goan, Eilis Humphreys



Teachers, student, parents, Board of Management and Trust representatives



Educating
Today and Tomorrow
A renewing passion

Educating Today and Tomorrow: A renewing passion

World Congress on Catholic Education

Rome and Castel Gandolfo, 18-21 November 2015

On Saturday 22nd November 2015, Pope Francis addressed over 4,000 delegates at the Conference in Rome. He answered a number of questions from educators working in difficult situations around the world. (Two of whom were from Le Chéile Congregations: a De La Salle Brother working in a Catholic university in Bethlehem and a Jesus and Mary Sister working with street children in Mumbai) He made the following points:-

- ◆ To educate in the Christian manner, we must educate young people in the fullness of their humanity (there was much emphasis on holistic education).
- ◆ We cannot educate within the walls of exclusivity. Including people from all faiths and none was one of his key messages – evangelization, not proselytization
- ◆ We must be open to transcendence so that the Lord can manifest Himself in the work. We must make room for dialogue to let Christ in.
- ◆ We must take risks, particularly in informal education. Pope Francis cited the example of teaching a child to walk – it's slow and they might fall over but they have to keep going.
- ◆ We must educate the head, the heart and the hands: teach young people in the languages of thinking, doing and feeling.
- ◆ A real school must teach ideas, habits and values.

By this World Congress, the Congregation for Catholic Education wishes to revive the commitment of the Church in the field of education, especially where this is an educational emergency clearly and frequently dramatic.



Visit www.lecheiletrust.ie for further news items, logos, 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!!

Ace Ireland Haiti Initiative

If you are interested in applying for this Haiti Initiative (application deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 27th) or have further questions please contact John O'Malley at jomalle3@nd.edu or by mobile 085.707.3932.

Be Still and Know I Am God

A retreat for teachers facilitated by Donal Neary S.J., will take place in Avila Retreat Centre, Dublin 4 on Saturday, 6th February. Starting at 9.30a.m. this free event (lunch also provided) concludes at 4 p.m. Booking Forms available on the Le Chéile website under Standard Forms. For further information contact: John Scally, Le Chéile Office. email: john@lecheiletrust.ie.



Are you tired of the same old summer holiday?

Want to share your teaching expertise with educators in Haiti?

When: July 1st to August 6th 2016
Where: Port au Prince, Haiti
What: Supporting the professional development of teachers (Primary & Secondary)
Sponsored by: The ACE Ireland Programme
All in-country costs will be covered by ACE-Ireland. Volunteers will be responsible for the cost of their travel to Haiti. French competency is preferred but not necessary.

ACE Ireland Haiti Initiative
Summer 2016

For more information contact: John O'Malley, ACE Ireland Director
(e. jomalle3@nd.edu / p. 085.707.3932)

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Le Chéile News Updates

Middle Leaders

As we reach the mid way stage of this course 105 teachers are busy working on their school projects. We look forward to meeting them again on 13th January. The final session will be held on 13th April and Principals are invited to attend to listen to the project presentations and be with their teachers as they receive their certificates.

Admissions Policies

At the recent Cluster Meetings the subcommittees reported back on the issues arising for schools in the context of the proposed Education (Admission to Schools) Bill 2015. Even though this Bill will not now be progressed before the election, schools are facing challenges from parents and students in relation to the characteristic spirit of the school and student participation in RE classes. We will have Le Chéile guidelines available for all our schools in the new year.

Deputy Principal Seminar

Le Chéile, Loreto, Spiritan and Jesuit Trusts invite Deputy Principals to a seminar in the Hodson Bay Hotel on 25th and 26th February. Details and booking forms will be sent to schools in January.

School Self-evaluation review

Following lively discussion at our Cluster Meetings about the next stage of SSE, we have included the following points in response to the DES:-

1. Allow flexibility to schools in relation to the pace at which they introduce new themes for SSE in teaching and learning
2. Keep 'care of the student' as a separate dimension of the SSE process, rather than incorporating it into teaching and learning
3. Revisit the draft document "*Self-Evaluation of School Leadership: Domains and Standards*" to take more account of the characteristic spirit of the school and the human element of leadership.



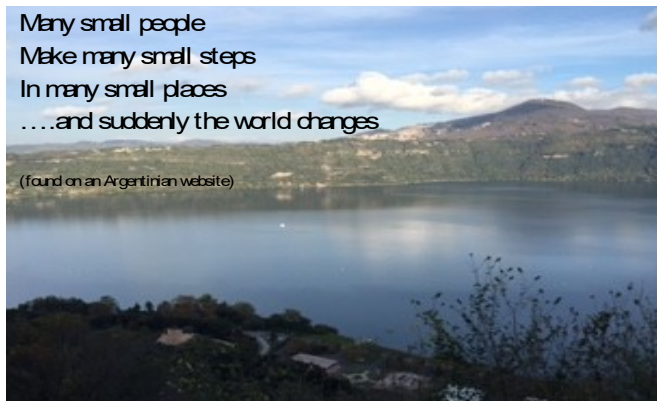
We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Aoife Winterlich, a student of St. Paul's Greenhills, who died tragically in the accident off Hook Head recently.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of the late Sr. Eileen Randles. She will be sadly missed by the Loreto community and the wider education community in Ireland.
Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dilís

To all members of the Le Chéile family who are suffering from ill health or other difficulties, you are in our thoughts and prayers at Christmas.

Many small people
Make many small steps
In many small places
....and suddenly the world changes

(found on an Argentinian website)



Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy



The logo and the motto together provide a fitting summary of what the Jubilee Year is all about. The motto *Merciful Like the Father* (taken from the Gospel of Luke, 6:36) serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure (cf. Lk 6:37-38). The logo – the work of Jesuit Father Marko I. Rupnik – presents a small *summa theologiae* of the theme of mercy in an image quite important to the early Church. The Son having taken upon his shoulders the lost soul demonstrating that it is the love of Christ that brings to completion the mystery of his incarnation culminating in redemption. The logo expresses the profound way in which the Good Shepherd touches the flesh of humanity and does so with a love with the power to change one's life.

The Jubilee Year of Mercy is a holy year that takes place every 25 years and the Pope can proclaim an extraordinary one as he deems necessary. This one in particular will take place between December 8, 2015 and November 20, 2016. For further prayers and reflections for the year of Mercy visit the resources section on the Le Chéile website.

Advent in Holy Child, Killiney

Advent is always a very special season in Holy Child, and organising the celebrations and activities for Advent is a task traditionally undertaken by Third Years. Activities included a beautiful Advent Assembly and Powerpoint for the whole school with the theme 'Let the ADVENTure Begin', special cards with a unique Advent quote, an 'Advent Act of Kindness' for every class member and staff member to fulfil. Students also placed 7 different Cribbs around



the school each assigned to a year group or staff, with prayers and blessings for Advent and Christmas beside each Crib. Students also designed an Advent Board Game based on the Game of Life. The game, for four players, consists of an Advent Wreath like path which begins at Nazareth and ends at Bethlehem. Using a dice, and a little Christmas figure, you move along the path; landing on a candle space means selecting an Advent Card, which indicates move ahead, move back, or possibly even go to Herod's house!

Its beginning to look a Lot Like Christmas.....

Well done to all our students, teachers and parents who worked so hard on their shoebox projects ensuring children throughout the world share the joy of a gift at Christmas.



"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year." – Charles Dickens

Reminder of Important Dates

11th January Submit 2014-2015 Accounts (electronic **and** hard copy)
28th & 29th Jan. Le Chéile AGM and Conference

"Finding God in All Things" - Chaplains Seminar

Wed. 10th February 1.30-4.00 pm, Avila Retreat Centre, Donnybrook, Dublin 4
 John Scally will lead a session on good practice and the noted writer on spirituality Brian Grogan S.J. will give a presentation on 'Finding God in all things'. . Booking Forms available on the Le Chéile website under Standard Forms. For further details contact: John 087 2097065 or email: john@lecheiletrust.ie

Is your school celebrating any special anniversary or event this year?? Do tell us and share your story.