

Le Chéile Update

VOLUME 2, ISSUE I

NOVEMBER 2008

POINTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- Budget '09 challenges
- Trust News— Charter. Insurance and Legal, New Offices
- News from the Schools.

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FROM THE WORKING GROUP

Irish greeting

Undoubtedly, the overriding concern for all schools is the effect of cuts proposed in the recent budget. The Working Group is conscious of the severe stress this causes and is seeking to make its corporate voice heard, along with the voice of other Trusts and Trustees, as well as lending practical support to the work of JMB and AMCSS.

In the short term, curtailing the provision of supervision and substitution threatens a number of core elements of schoolwork. A priority here must be to ensure that fieldwork and other experiences essential to examination students are not disrupted. The changes in Substitution rules will cause logistical nightmares for school leaders as they try to ensure the safety of students at all times. Importantly, key experiences such as field trips, school tours

New Offices for Le Chéile

In November, Le Chéile opened new offices in Dublin. The secretary, Alice Collier will be in the which is outstanding. office two days a week (Wednesday and Thursday) to begin with. Her

and retreats, as well as extracurricular activities such as games, drama and debating are likely to be affected. These activities can not be considered as "optional luxuries". They are essential to the quality of the holistic education aspired to by all Le Chéile schools

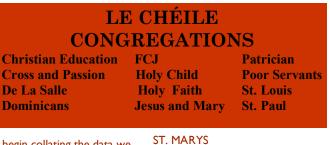


The proposals to cut the teacher/ student ratio from Sept 09 will have a major impact on all schools. They will lose 1-3 teachers depending on size. This places a major constraint on the already stretched resources to provide a curriculum and instruction relevant to a wide variety of students. We appreciate the stress this will cause and we also admire the

creative responses schools are developing. A particular concern for the current Trustees is the effect this change will have on smaller schools. These schools offer a valuable and important service in local communities and are already walking a resource tightrope. This budget measure seriously threatens their survival.

From a general perspective, the rowing back on support services (Language, Books, Travellers, non -DEIS grants) will affect the weaker members of the school community who depend on these supports to make their way within the system. As Trustees we are particularly concerned about the long-term effects this measure will have on these vulnerable young people, as well as the difficulties they pose for schools in maintaining and developing their work with these students

As individual Trustees and in our collective voice as a new Trust. we will be supporting the schools and lobbying on their behalf, making their case known at every



first job is to begin collating the data we have for the Trust and to collect that

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Beneavin Extension

Sixth Year Prefects inaugurate award to commemorate fellow student



Sr. Marie, David Tuohy and Sr Eilis witness Sr. Helen's signature as a subscriber to Le Chéile companies

Beneavin Extension Completed

Parents, teachers, pupils past and present, Board of Management, Trustees and associates joined in the celebration of the re-opening of Beneavin De La Salle College.

TD Pat Carey reopened the new doors and surrounds on the site which first came into the possession of the De La Salle Trustees back in the 1960s. Br Francis, on behalf of the Trustees, captured the joy and sense of pride on the occasion: õIt leads me to admire the foresight, the courage, the determination and the wisdom of those Brothers who were responsible for the purchase of the lands and the building of this school some forty years ago. In a sense they are still the rock foundation of this school.

It provides an excellent education for the young and in doing so keeps in mind the whole person of the students. It has included in its wider curriculum initiatives to cater for the emotional, the pastoral and the local community needs



of its students. The spiritual needs have not been neglected either.ö

He expressed also his admiration for õall those who are responsible for this new building we bless and officially open tonight. They too are people of great energy, courage and with an understanding of the educational needs of today especially in terms of curriculum change, new resources for that curriculum, new types of space for a modern school building, new developments in technology and in the provision of facilities for sport and recreation.ö He paid tribute to the Principal, Mr Twomey, his staff, Board of Management and those other agencies who advised him along the way

Emily Feeney 'Generosity of Spirit' Award

Following the untimely death from Cystic Fibrosis in Dec 07 of Emily Feeney, 4th year student at Jesus & Mary Secondary School, Salerno, Salthill, Galway, the Leaving Cert Prefects decided to honour her memory. The sculptor, John Behan, was commissioned to design a piece of sculpture which will be presented each year to a Leaving Cert Student who shows kindness, generosity, helpfulness and love to others. Emily was generous in everything she did and will be sadly missed by the whole school community, student and teachers alike.



Presentation of Award to first recipient (I-r) John Behan, Mrs. Eileen Feeney, Sr. Gerarda (Principal), Marion Hanley, Marge Connolly (Deputy Principal), Jarleth Feeney

Legal and Insurance Issues



The two companies, Le Chéile and Síol have been formally incorporated in the Companies Registration office. The next step is to ensure charitable status for these companies.

November 1st saw the start up of our new insurance policy with Allianz. This has resulted in major savings for most schools. Currently Allianz representatives are visiting the different schools and hopefully, any teething problems will soon be ironed out.

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Charter Adopted



In May, a large representative group of the Trustees and the schools met in the Bloomfield Hotel, Mullingar to discuss and adopt the Charter for the new Trust.

The Charter consists of three parts. Part 1 outlines the mission of the Trust and explains how this follows in the traditional mission of the Congregations within the Church. Part 2 outlines an educational vision for Le Chéile schools. This is followed by a statement from each of the founding Congregations outlining their particular heritage which they hope will be preserved within the Trust.

The draft had been circulated and discussed by all the schools, and the meeting consisted of schools sharing with one another how they implement Catholic





Photos: Top leftô delegates at work. Above: Facilitators David Tuohy and Mary Fleming. Centre: Trustees in discussion

education and what the Charter meant for them. Delegates then had an opportunity to discuss the particular wording of the Charter and to make recommendations on its development.

All recommendations have been discussed by the Trustees and the Charter has now been formally adopted. We hope to publish it for wider dissemination in the new year.

150th Anniversary of the Sisters of St Louis in Ireland



At the beginning of January1859, the first St Louis Sisters arrived in Ireland from France. The Congregation of the Dames de St Louis had been founded in Juilly, near Paris in 1842 by Abbé Bautain and Mère Thérèse de la Croix. At that time, France was in political and religious turmoil after the revolutions of the previous sixty years.

Catholic Ireland at this time was emerging from the Penal Laws and from the dreadful effects of the Famine. New religious houses were being established all over the country but the congregations were unable to meet the needs of all. The Bishop of Clogher, Dr McNally, pleaded with Abbé Bautain to make a foundation in Ireland.

After Christmas 1858 three sisters set out on a long and difficult journey from Paris. They arrived in Monaghan on the Feast of the Epiphany, 1859. They were Sr Geneviève Beale, Sr Claire OøSullivan, and Sr Clémence McCarthy. Sr Geneviève was English and the other two sisters were Irish and had been students in the boarding school in Juilly. Regarding their journey we can echo the words of TS Eliot, õa cold coming they had of itö. However the seeds of St Louis sown in õthe stony grey soil of Monaghanö produced rich harvests.

As the 150th anniversary of this sowing is commemorated, foundations across Ireland, England, Nigeria, Ghana, Benin, US, and Brazil look to Monaghan as their Motherhouse. The original convent in Juilly, the birth place of the Institute, is now canonically a daughter-house of Monaghan. In all of these places, during this special Jubilee year, associates, friends, benefactors, co-workers and neighbours will join with the sisters in giving thanks for what has been and in praying for what is to be. *Dieu le Veult*, and *Ut Sint Unum*, continue to inspire the Institute.



Celebrations will take place locally between January 3rd and 6th 2009. On April the 25th 2009 there will be a public celebration in the Cathedral in Monaghan. School communities and others associated with the ministries of St Louis will be involved throughout the year.



Benildus open La Sallian Rooms

The La Sallian Rooms, a new wing in the college, were opened on Thursday 6th November. The new staff room, board room, toilets and foyer are a sign of confidence in the future success of the college.

The development represents the dedication, enthusiasm and achievements that have been part of the college since its opening. It is not surprising then, that the founding father of the college, Brother Brendan Ogsullivan, was invited to open the rooms and it is to Brother Brendan that the rooms are dedicated. In a heartfelt speech, Brother Brendan honoured the school community, past and present, for their hard work and commitment. The

obvious affection evident in his speech is testament to the many happy years he spent as school principal of St. Benildus College.

An inspiring speech was then delivered by the current school principal Mr. Sean Mulvilhill. He thanked those responsible for helping the La Sallian Rooms become a reality, the De La Salle Order and the Board of Management. His words of passion for the college were a confirmation of the triumphs, inside and outside the classroom, a symbol of the accomplishment that is St. Benildus College and the La Sallian Rooms embody this.

Ms. Jennifer Beadle then spoke on behalf of the parents, teachers and students. In a warm speech she talked about the inspiration she has found since joining the staff of the college. She looked at the vision that the La Sallian Rooms represent for both the staff and students.

In attendance were the Provincial of the De La Salle Order, past Principals and teachers, Parentøs Association Representatives past and present, Student Council members and local representatives Tom Kitt, Olivia Mitchell and Tom Joyce.





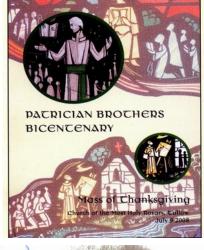
Bishop Daniel Delaney (1747-1814)

ATRICIAN LOCATIONS AROUND THE WORLD 1808 - 2008



Patrician Brothers Celebrate Bicentenary

Bishop Delaneyøs intention of founding the Patrician Brothers in Tullow in 1808 was to combat social evils and raise the moral standards and quality of life of the people through education. The bicentenary of the founding was celebrated in all Patrician schools during the year and culminated in an international education conference in Maynooth attended by representatives from Patrician schools around the world. This was followed by a Mass of Thanksgiving on July 9th in Tullow.



Remembering Their Heritage

Each year the students, teachers and Board of Management members of Cross and Passion College Kilcullen, Co Kildare walk together in pilgrimage to the old Christian settlement of Old Kilcullen, on February 1st. They are joined by a number of Sisters of the Cross and Passion, none of whom are now on the staff.

February 1st is an important day in the life of the school, where past, present and future enrich one another by their presence and shared history.



The students carry with them the flags of the countries where the Sisters still minister and a banner which reads AR AGHAIDH LINNØ signalling our intention to move forward in support for each other and those less fortunate than ourselves.