



Le Chéile Update

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

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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

and retreats, as well as extra-curricular 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

New Offices for Le Chéile

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

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

E-mail. admin@lecheiletrust.ie

LE CHÉILE CONGREGATIONS

Christian Education	FCJ	Patrician
Cross and Passion	Holy Child	Poor Servants
De La Salle	Holy Faith	St. Louis
Dominicans	Jesus and Mary	St. Paul

ST. MARYS

BLOOMFIELD AVENUE

DUBLIN 4

Phone (01)6677373

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: "It 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. He expressed also his admiration for all 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. He paid tribute to the Principal, Mr Twomey, his staff, Board of Management and those other agencies who advised him along the way

Beneavin Extension

Sixth Year Prefects
inaugurate award
to commemorate
fellow student

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 (l-r) John Behan, Mrs. Eileen Feeney, Sr. Gerarda (Principal), Marion Hanley, Marge Connolly (Deputy Principal), Jarleth Feeney



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

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.

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 left 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 January 1859, 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 O'Sullivan, 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, 'oh cold coming they had of it'. However the seeds of St Louis sown in the stony grey soil of Monaghan 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.

