



Boost for Integrated Pre-school Education



Pupils from Ballycastle IPS's new Nursery Unit

Three integrated primaries have welcomed developments to their pre-school units. In April 2008, Millennium Integrated Primary School, Carryduff, was delighted to receive approval from the Department of Education to change their voluntary play group's status to a statutory nursery.

Mary Roulston, Principal of Millennium IPS said, "The entire school community is absolutely thrilled with the decision. We have worked very hard for a long time to achieve this and we are delighted that our efforts have paid off."

Ballycastle Controlled Integrated Primary School, officially opened their new nursery unit on Tuesday 20th May 2008. To commemorate the occasion, the school unveiled a plaque recognising the history of the school's development including Lir Integrated Primary School which had been independently funded by the Integrated Education Fund (IEF), along with supporters

from the Ireland Funds, before Ballycastle PS transformed to integrated status in 2006.

Glencraig Controlled Integrated Primary School, near Holywood, opened their new pre-school unit on Friday 30th May 2008 with £178,000 capital funding from the IEF. The new building has been named after the late Sir Robert Cooper, who was Chair of the IEF Board of Governors from September 2000 until June 2004.

Since 1998 the IEF has funded 8 pre-schools offering 200 additional places.

"The early years development is essential to underpin the growth of Integrated Education right across the sector," explained Deborah Girvan, NICIE/IEF Communications and Lobbying Manager. "Collectively, the three new nurseries will provide approximately 75 places for pre-school children. On behalf of the Integrated Education movement, I would like to pay tribute to NICIE and the IEF as both organisations have contributed significantly over the years to develop integrated provision for pre-school pupils."



Mayor of New York, Michael Bloomberg, speaking with Hazelwood IC students, Shauna Flynn and Christopher Chung

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If you have any stories that you would like included in future Integrated Education newsletters please contact Kyra Smyth at NICIE or Siobhán McKenna at IEF.

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Bursary – It'll be a Cracker!

IEF supporter and comedy legend, Frank Carson, will be launching a new bursary scheme in his name, which will encourage integrated school pupils to creatively portray 'What Integrated Education means to me'. Funding for the bursaries has been provided by Frank's son and IEF volunteer, Tony Carson and it is anticipated that the initiative will operate for many years to come. There will be a number of bursaries of £1,000 each available for the best creative pieces.

It is anticipated that the bursaries will be open to all sixth year integrated college students.

Further details will be announced in September 2008.

Gala Event Unmasked

One of the most exciting upcoming IEF fundraising events to take place this year will undoubtedly be the Phantom Ball at the Europa Hotel, Belfast on Friday 17th October 2008. The event will be themed on Gaston Leroux's classic French novel 'Le Fantôme de l'Opéra'.

Building on last year's success, corporate partners, donors, volunteers and celebrity friends of Integrated Education are invited to come together to celebrate the achievements of the Fund and to help raise money for the future growth and development of Integrated Education.

Avoid disappointment, book your place early! For further information contact Brian Small, IEF Northern Ireland Fundraising Manager on 028 9033 0031 or brian@ief.org.uk

New Book claims Economic Gains in a more Integrated Northern Ireland



Authors, Tony Carson and Cy Jamison, at the launch of their new book at the Bookshop at Queen's, with Blackwater IC pupils Erin Wilkinson and Chris Ritchie. The authors argue that Integrated Education models developed in Northern Ireland during periods of conflict could serve many divided communities around the world. 'Integrate to Accumulate' is now available from the Bookshop at Queen's, Easons and by contacting Gemma Marlowe at the IEF on 028 9033 0031.

Support for Rowallane from Down Under

A massive AUS \$200,000 grant from the Australian Ireland Fund and Sir Warwick Fairfax Trust has been announced to support Rowallane IC which will continue to rely on IEF funding until Blackwater IC is established with government funding from September 2008. The Assembly Hall at the school will be named in recognition of this generous grant which is part of the \$1 million commitment to Rowallane IC from the Ireland Funds announced last March. The Australian funding is part of the IEF's overall commitment of £2 million to the project over the last 2 years.

The Australian Ireland Fund and Sir Warwick Fairfax Trust have contributed to a number of integrated school projects such as the new Australian E-Learning Centre at Portaferry IPS as well as support grants for all the new schools which opened in 2004.

€150,000 Boost to PACT Grant Scheme

In April 2008, the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dermot Ahern TD, announced €150,000 was to be awarded to the IEF's Promoting a Culture of Trust (PACT) grant making programme. The funding was made available through the Department of Foreign Affairs Anti-Sectarianism Fund which encourages projects in communities seeking new and more effective ways of addressing sectarianism and division in society.



Will Haire, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education with students from Loughshore Educational Resource Centre at the launch of PACT IX

Speaking at the launch of the Anti-Sectarianism Fund the Minister said, "This is a time of opportunity for the people of Northern Ireland and on the island of Ireland as a whole. We look to the period ahead with hope and expectation but also with a keen eye to the tasks before us. Of the challenges facing us, the battle against sectarianism is among the most pressing. It is vital that we not only eliminate sectarianism but also that we begin to eradicate ways of thinking that allow sectarianism to flourish."

The PACT grant programme is open to all schools in Northern Ireland for projects which promote reconciliation, understanding and mutual respect through education.

Westminster Group Explores Integrated Education



Graham Allen MP; Baron Paul Bew; Baroness May Blood; Lord David Shutt; Jill Houston, Principal of Hazelwood IPS; Lord Alf Dubs; Senator Cecilia Keaveney and Lord Brian Mawhinney during their visit to Hazelwood IPS

A Westminster All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), including two former NIO Ministers, Lord Alf Dubs and Lord Brian Mawhinney, visited Belfast to investigate supporting Integrated Education which included going to see Hazelwood IPS, North Belfast.

Lord Alf Dubs, Chairman of APPG said, "We thoroughly enjoyed our fact finding trip to Northern Ireland and particularly our visit to Hazelwood IPS. We had the opportunity to view the peace fence which has recently been erected in the school grounds and discuss it with the Principal and members of the Board of Governors. We were very impressed to hear about the excellent work that is taking place within the school to build trust and respect between Protestant and Catholic communities. We were also delighted to meet some of the pupils and were entertained by Celtic Dream, an Irish dance group from New York, who were visiting the school at the same time".

During their stay, the influential parliamentary group met the Education Committee at Stormont and attended a prestigious dinner discussion with prominent figures from the Integrated Education movement.

In and Around the Schools



Lady Pat Cooper with pupils Annie Heavern and Aimee McConnell, from the new Glencraig IPS pre-school facility in Holywood. The new facilities were launched by Lady Pat Cooper and were named after her late husband and former Chairman of the IEF, Sir Robert Cooper. The Sir Robert Cooper building, which has been grant aided by the IEF, will be the first 'Allergy Aware' Pre School in Europe



Kathleen Maguire and Maeve McKenna from Erne IC, Enniskillen, who joined pupils from 11 integrated colleges, staff from NICIE and over 200 other post-16 students, to visit the former Nazi concentration camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland



Christopher Madden from Ulidia IC, Carrickfergus, who won a scholarship to attend St Albans School, Washington DC for 3 years, pictured with Jack McDonnell, scholarship funder and Mason Lecky, St Alban's Admissions Director



Attending an International Mediation Conference in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast are Peer Mediators from Oakwood IPS, Derrigahy



Fan dancers, Katherine Flack and Sarah Kenny, are pictured during 'One World, One Dream', a joint production by Holywood schools, Priory CIC and Glencraig CIPS to celebrate the 2008 Beijing Olympics (Photograph courtesy of Irish News)



Integrated Education Week 'Vision For The Future' letter writing competition winner David Gilkinson from Slemish IC, Ballymena, presenting letters to Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness



Mrs Heather Bamford from Action MS is presented with a cheque for nearly £4,000 which was raised through a sponsored walk organised by Corran IPS, Larne

Bangor Central Integrated Primary School Choir Perform at EU Conference



Pupils from the Bangor Central IPS Choir pictured with First Minister, Dr Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness, during the conference

Bangor Central IPS Choir recently performed at a conference looking at 'The European Union's Role in the Northern Ireland Peace Process,' which was attended by many European and local political figures and dignitaries including the First Minister, Dr Ian Paisley and the Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness.

Mr Alec Redpath, Principal of Bangor Central IPS said, "We were absolutely delighted and honoured to have been chosen to take part in such a high profile and important event for Northern Ireland. Our pupils put in a lot of effort and practice in the run up to the event and they gave an excellent performance. It is something they will remember for a long time. As an integrated school with an ethos of trust and sharing, I feel that the pupils acted as great ambassadors for our country and the positive effect of the peace process to our European visitors."

New Publications on Inclusion

Two new publications have been produced by NICIE on diversity and inclusion.

One of the publications, 'Elephant, Bee or Other: Including Everyone in our Schools,' has been accepted for inclusion in the European Compendium of Good Practices in Human Rights Education in the School System. This means that the resource will be distributed widely throughout Europe as a good practice example of how to promote inclusion in education.

Roisin Marshall, Project Manager of the Integrating Education Team at NICIE which developed the publication said, "This publication can be used to get some ideas for how schools could develop more inclusive principles, policies, practices and resources. Every school in Northern Ireland has already received a copy of this publication and we are absolutely delighted that it will now be shared internationally through this Compendium."

In addition, an exciting new publication 'ABC: Promoting an Anti-Bias Approach to Education in Northern Ireland' has recently been launched. It is a resource for teachers to use in the classroom which outlines how to deal with difficult issues such as sectarianism, racism and sexual orientation and helps to teach children to respect difference.

Both publications are available to download from the NICIE website www.nicie.org.



Rachel Tucker from Belfast who competed for the role of Nancy on 'I'd Do Anything' with Gareth Borrow

West End Beckons for Oakgrove Star

Gareth Borrow, a Year 9 pupil from Oakgrove IC, L'Derry has been awarded a part in the hit West End musical 'Oliver!'. He narrowly lost out on the leading role after competing on the BBC programme 'I'd Do Anything', the TV show which cast the leading positions of Nancy and Oliver through holding auditions open to the public. Gareth, who performed live in front of a studio audience and millions of viewers for 9 weeks, made it to the final 9 out of over 6,200 boys.

Mrs Jill Markham, Principal of Oakgrove IC, who travelled to London to support Gareth during the live shows said, "We are absolutely thrilled that Gareth has been awarded a part in the hit musical. He is an excellent performer and everyone in Oakgrove and in L'Derry has been 100% behind him through all the gruelling auditions. We are very proud of his achievements and know he will be a big star!"

Gareth, who has been described by musical producer Cameron Mackintosh as "a wonderful, natural actor," will find out shortly what his role will be. He will have his first performance on 12th December on opening night of 'Oliver!' in the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London.

Everyone at NICIE and the IEF would like to congratulate Gareth on his success and wish him all the best for the future.



Gareth Borrow (centre, front) with the other Oliver hopefuls from 'I'd Do Anything' and host Graham Norton

Goodbye CAL

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to the Communications and Lobbying (CAL) Team which has been working not only for NICIE and the IEF for the past three years, but also for the Integrated Education movement. The CAL project which began in June 2005 with funding from Atlantic Philanthropies is finishing in September 2008.

Reflecting on the work of CAL, Deborah Girvan, NICIE/IEF Communications and Lobbying Manager said, "I have been very proud to lead a team of such dedicated, hard working and professional people. The project has been extremely challenging given the huge reforms which are taking place within education and the Northern Ireland Assembly but we have made good progress towards achieving our objectives."

The key areas of work included policy, lobbying at Westminster and Stormont, outreach, communications, marketing and training.

"I would like to pay tribute to my team members who have helped to raise the profile of Integrated Education on a local, regional and international level and contributed to the growth and development of Integrated Education in Northern Ireland," said Deborah Girvan. "I would like to thank our colleagues at NICIE and the IEF and the integrated schools for their constant support and encouragement. I would also like to thank Atlantic Philanthropies for giving us the opportunity to engage in an extremely worthwhile and rewarding project."



Nuala McAllister-Hart, WELB/SELB Outreach Officer, Deborah Girvan, Communications and Lobbying Manager and Pam Tilson, Lobbying Officer pictured at the 2007 NICIE Conference



Sam Fitzsimmons, Communications Officer with US Consul General Dean Pittman



Margaret Annett, SEELB/BELB Outreach Officer and Emma Hassard, Public Relations Officer pictured at an Integrated Education roadshow in Lisburn



Philip O'Sullivan, Public Relations Officer, Deborah Girvan, Communications and Lobbying Manager and David Russell, Policy Analyst pictured at the 2007 NICIE Conference



Gary Kent, Westminster Lobbyist and Graham Allen MP pictured during an All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) visit to Hazelwood IPS



PUP Leader, Dawn Purvis with Ian McKay, NEELB/BELB Outreach Officer at the 2007 PUP Conference



Former World Champion Snooker Player, Dennis Taylor with Melanie Bradford, Communications Secretary and Kyra Smyth, Public Relations Officer at the launch of Integrated Education Week 2008

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tribute to Blease and Holme

The recent deaths of Lord Holme of Cheltenham and Lord Blease of Cromac have deprived the Integrated Education movement of two firm supporters in the House of Lords.

Richard Holme, a Liberal Democrat, had served as the Party Northern Ireland Spokesperson in the 90s and agreed at that time to become



Lord Richard Holme

a patron of NICIE. A close advisor to Paddy Ashdown during his time as Liberal Democrat Leader, he was a passionate advocate of a shared society in Northern Ireland and firmly of the belief that educating children of all traditions and none together could be a key contributor to this. Combining a distinguished business and political career, he will be fondly remembered by those he worked with during his time here and since.

William Blease was a Belfast born trade union activist, who rose through the ranks to become a full time officer



Lord William Blease

with the ICTU, a position he held from 1959 – 1975. He was made a life peer in 1978, taking the title Lord Blease of Cromac and served as the Labour party spokesperson in the House of Lords from 1979 – 1982. He was committed to an anti-sectarian society, and heavily involved in voluntary and community work. He was a regular attendee in the Lords into the 1990s, and a member of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Integrated Education.

Global Support for Integrated Education

Integrated colleges across Northern Ireland have recently been playing host to many high profile visitors, including the Mayor of New York city, Michael Bloomberg, homegrown Hollywood star Geraldine Hughes, internationally acclaimed musician Sharon Corr and leading US academic, Dr John DeGioia.

The Mayor of New York, Michael Bloomberg and Speaker of the New York Council, Christine Quinn met with students and staff at Hazelwood IC, North Belfast and heard of their positive experiences of teaching in an inner city integrated school. The visit took place ahead of Mayor Bloomberg's meeting with Northern Ireland's First Minister Dr Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness at the US Northern Ireland Investment Conference in May 2008.



Trevor Parkhall, Hazelwood IC Governor; David Montgomery, President of the Integrated Education Campaign; Eileen Linehan, Principal of Hazelwood IC; Baroness May Blood, Chair of the Integrated Education Campaign; Mayor Michael Bloomberg; Shauna Flynn and Christopher Chung, Hazelwood IC students; Christine Quinn, Speaker of the New York City Council and Diana Taylor



Geraldine Hughes with Hazelwood IC pupils Magda Bernat, Aleksy Gaj, Angelicka Nowicka

Also on a visit to Hazelwood IC, Belfast born actress Geraldine Hughes met with students and staff to see the new digital arts facilities at the school. Geraldine Hughes has earned considerable praise for writing and acting all 24 parts in her autobiographical play 'Belfast Blues'. She got her big screen debut opposite Sylvester Stallone in the box office hit Rocky Balboa.



Sharon Corr with year 8 pupils, Ben Regan and Patrick Murphy, from Rowallane IC



Dr John DeGioia, US Academic, speaking with Eugene Martin, Principal of Ulidia IC and Lynsey Davidson, student

On a visit to Ulidia IC, Carrickfergus the president of Georgetown University in Washington, Dr John De Gioia, met with students and staff of the College to learn more about Integrated Education and took part in an informal Question and Answer session with students.

Sharon Corr popped into Rowallane IC, South Belfast recently to meet with students and

staff and to lend her support to Integrated Education. Sharon Corr has earned international acclaim as the violinist in Irish superband, The Corrs. Sharon's visit provoked extensive attention from the press, who were keen to catch a glimpse of her speaking with students and staff about her career and experiences in the music industry.