



Learning Together

2011
Issue 16 Autumn

News from the Integrated Education Movement in Northern Ireland

Learning Together

MLAs Get Mail

Influential figures from the world of business, commerce and civic society joined well-known faces in calling for a better future for all our young people. TV presenters Andrea Catherwood and Eamonn Holmes, stage and screen stars Geraldine Hughes and Joanna Lumley, celebrated comedian Frank Carson and former world snooker champion Denis Taylor added their names to an open letter which attracted plenty of attention when it was published in the three daily Northern Ireland papers in September. Altogether 75 people issued a respectful but urgent request for a radical rethink of our education system.



Baroness May Blood joined the team in presenting the Open Letter to the Education Committee in Stormont in early September

Baroness May Blood, Campaign Chair of the IEF says "Many influential people have been more than willing to add their voices to a call for a commission to look at education in Northern Ireland. We in the Integrated Education Movement want to see a system which encourages and rewards cross-cultural learning and sharing. We are calling on the Executive, and all the MLAs, to make education reform a priority for the sake of all our futures."

Other names on the list include Trevor Ringland and Brian Friel as well as prominent business leaders and the Institute of Directors.

The next step is to show the politicians how strongly the general public is behind the campaign. We know from this year's Ipsos MORI Attitudinal Survey, and the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey, that the majority of people would support more sharing and integration in schools.

Anyone who supports the aims set out in the open letter can add their name to the list. We have set up a dedicated microsite giving more information and with the facility to sign up: www.oneschoolofthought.org.uk

Take a look, read the letter carefully, and add your name. We want to re-present the letter to the Assembly showing the depth and strength of public support for education reform.

Remember to tell other people about *One School of Thought*. We're stronger together!

Read more about the campaign on pages 8 and 9.



Pledge your support online at www.oneschoolofthought.org.uk



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 30 Years Of Integrated Schools In Northern Ireland!
- A Million Pound Package Of Grants For Schools And Communities Launched
- Backing a Winner at Down Royal Racecourse
- BT Ireland Gives Further Support To Sharing
- Civic Discussions On Education Reform Take Place

If you have any stories about sharing and integration that you would like us to include in future newsletters please email learningtogether@ief.org.uk



Ireland Fund Supporters From Across The World Visit Integrated Schools

Pupils at several integrated schools welcomed IEF donors through the worldwide Ireland Funds recently as supporters flew in to see how their financial support has been put to good use.



Brian Small, the Fund's Northern Ireland Fundraising Manager was joined by his sons, Michael and Jack for the 9 mile walk

Stepping Out For Team Integration

More than 200 athletes (and aspiring athletes!) ran for Team Integration in the Belfast City Marathon in May, representing eight schools plus a few brave souls from the IEF staff. Money raised will be split between the participating schools and the IEF. We had beautiful weather, and spirits were high as we set off – between us covering the full marathon, relay, fun-run and the nine-mile walk, with the pupils often putting us older participants to shame with their energy and enthusiasm. There's no doubt the group training sessions and the runner's blog by Glengormley Integrated Primary School principal Nigel Arnold helped to inspire the team.

Afterwards, fun-runners were treated to a 'Picnic in the Park' while lots more joined in the IEF's post-marathon party in the Errigle Inn later, where they were able to finally rest their aching limbs!



Margaret Marshall, one of the founding parents of Millennium IPS was one of the team of 200 parents, pupils, teachers and supporters who ran in the marathon in May



Teresa Keating, Executive Director of the Australian Ireland Fund (AIF) and the Sir Warwick Fairfax Trust (SWFT) visited Glengormley IPS and Forge IPS in June where she met with Principals Nigel Arnold and Neville Watson. Children at both schools were eager to talk to Teresa about their experiences of integrated education and quiz her about what life is like 'down under'. The visits were made in advance of a special announcement that the AIF and SWFT would be making substantial grants to both schools to enable them to develop their integrated provision.



Australian actress Liz Burch of 'Flying Doctors' fame met pupils at Rowandale IPS and Drumlins IPS where she was entertained with special performances, songs and recitals from pupils. The schools were delighted to have the opportunity to show Liz how money from donors in Australia has been used for new Resource Units enabling both schools to better meet the increasing demand for integrated provision in their areas.



ABOVE: Brother and sister Chris and Jennifer Donnelly from the USA saw integration at work in Kilbroney IPS during a recent trip to Ireland. They told a local reporter "Newry and Mourne's only integrated primary school is a prime example of how educating children together can play a huge part in uniting a divided society..." Chris and Jennifer are pictured with p6 and p7 pupils, Principal Denise Moorehead and Campaign Director of the IEF Paul Caskey.

Visit
www.ief.org.uk
to see more
photos from
events and
visits



Local Pupils Pack Their Creations Off To Scarecrow Street

After weeks of hard work, pupils from integrated primary schools brought their scarecrows to Allianz Scarecrow Street and spent a fantastic weekend at Garden Show Ireland, Hillsborough Castle in June, picking up lots of awards on their way. Before the event Drumlins IPS took their Stephen Nolan scarecrow to meet his namesake live on BBC Radio and, now the garden show's over, plenty of scarecrows are decorating school grounds around Northern Ireland. Special thanks to Nuala O'Connor for her support and Allianz for their generous sponsorship of the event. Congratulations to everyone who took part and made this the best Scarecrow Street display ever! The lucky category winners were:

SCARIEST: Marigold - Round Tower IPS, Antrim

CHARACTERS FROM BOOKS: Mary, Mary - Ballymoney Model CIPS

LOCAL FACES: Stephen Nolan - Drumlins IPS, Ballynahinch

TRADITIONAL SCARECROWS: Royal Wedding Guests - Enniskillen IPS

JUDGES SPECIAL AWARD FOR THE MOST ORIGINAL: Blossom - All Children's IPS, Newcastle

OVERALL WINNER: Blossom - All Children's IPS, Newcastle



Pupils from Drumlins IPS popped into the Radio Ulster studio to take their Stephen Nolan scarecrow to meet his namesake!



ABOVE: Pupils at Cliftonville IPS were keen to show New York Hotelier John Fitzpatrick, together with his nephews Mark and David, just how money from the Eithne and Paddy Fitzpatrick Memorial Fund has provided them with a new state of the art playground. The Irish-born businessman was joined by IEF Campaign Chair Baroness May Blood and Acting IEF Chair Marie Cowan for the special event. The Memorial Fund is supporting Cliftonville's journey to integrated status.



LEFT: Kevin Curley from the Texan Chapter of the American Ireland Fund paid a special visit to Cranmore IPS recently to see at first hand the school's new sensory room and meet children in the Pre-school Playgroup. Both projects have been supported extensively by the Curley Family and their annual Shamrock Shoot-out Golf Tournament. Kevin was welcomed to Cranmore by Principal Helen Hamilton and accompanied by Paul Caskey and Brian Small from the IEF. In the evening Kevin was joined by IEF supporter Terry Cross for dinner.



Pupils from Ballycastle IPS enjoying the new additions to their Library

Transformed Schools Read All About It

Libraries at five transformed integrated schools have been enhanced thanks to the Irish American Partnership – an organisation dedicated to forging good relations between Irish America and Ireland, North and South. The Partnership extended its support recently by donating \$8,000 to a Cultural Library Fund, which helps schools increase resources to reflect growing diversity after transformation. Blackwater IC, along with Glengormley IPS, Round Tower IPS, Groarty IPS, and Ballycastle IPS were each able to buy a range of materials, and teachers say the response from pupils has been enthusiastic. Books bought represent fiction and non-fiction and cover issues such as Irish history, racism, comparative religion, disability and special educational needs. The schools and the IEF are very grateful to the Irish American Partnership and its President and CEO, Joe Leary, who is a longstanding supporter of the peace process in Northern Ireland.

Grants for the latest round of PACT (Promoting a Culture of Trust) funding have now been allocated, with 17 projects due to share in a pot of almost £90,000, thanks to support from BT Ireland and the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs.

The end of last term saw the culmination of many previous projects. Children from Long Tower and Fountain Primary schools in Derry/Londonderry showed friends and family the results of their collaboration, "Musical Pathways to Friendship", with a concert at the Millennium Forum. Parents also took to the stage to talk about what

BT Ireland Gives Further Support to Sharing

Baroness May Blood, Campaign Chair of the Integrated Education Fund, joined children from St Paul's and Harmony Primary Schools to thank Graham Sutherland, CEO of BT Ireland, for the company's increasing support for the IEF's Promoting A Culture Of Trust grant programme.

The PACT programme is available to schools of all types in Northern Ireland, and funds projects uniting pupils from different cultural backgrounds to explore and celebrate diversity and unity.

Baroness Blood said "The PACT projects involve pupils, teachers and parents in this collaborative work and it's so encouraging to see the scheme being supported and helped to continue by the generosity of BT Ireland."

Graham Sutherland said "We're delighted to support the IEF in its cross-community work involving schools of all types all over Northern Ireland, and it's inspiring to see in this small group of young people here today just how they are working together and forming what will hopefully be lasting friendships."

BELOW: Baroness May Blood joined children from Harmony Primary School, Forthriver and St Paul's Primary School, Beechmount, to thank Graham Sutherland, CEO of BT Ireland, for the company's support to cross-community projects over the past ten years



For more information on the PACT scheme go to www.ief.org.uk/Grants

Promoting A Culture Of Trust

they had gained from joining together for workshops and from supporting their children in making new friendships. They have pledged to keep in touch and continue meeting even though their PACT project has now finished.

It was the parents' work which was to the fore in an exhibition in Omagh where art and crafts from mothers and fathers from Omagh County Primary School and Loreto Convent Primary School were displayed at the town's library.

In Newtownabbey, 200 children from Carnmoney Primary School and St Mary's on the Hill ran a project called "Trust through

Sport" along with senior pupils from Glengormley High School and Edmund Rice College. The children attended each other's school assemblies and learned gaelic, hockey and football. The children also made identical mosaics that are now permanently in the schools, and they plan to continue linking through basketball and shared IT facilities.

Chair of the IEF's Grants Committee Dorothee Wagner says "It's always great to see the energy and imagination which go into the PACT projects, and it's especially good to see that the relationships forged are often taking on a life of their own and continuing beyond the initial collaboration."

A Million Pound Package Of Grants For Schools And Communities

The Integrated Education Fund has this autumn launched a major grants programme to support projects dedicated to exploring and developing better community relations within and between schools and communities.

At a time of financial constraints, we are delighted to be able to offer funding for schools from a combined pot of just over a million pounds.

The grants cover four schemes:

PROMOTING A CULTURE OF TRUST - PACT, which enables schools of any management type to collaborate on cross-community projects which explore and celebrate diversity. Funding for this has been generously supported by BT Ireland and the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION - CEE, a new programme to help grassroots organisations engage in conversations exploring local demand for greater sharing and the

possibilities for meeting this demand.

TRANSFORMATION, to support schools wishing to take a further step and become integrated; a process which can be straightforward and very rewarding as the school makes a practical commitment to welcoming pupils of all faiths and no faith.

There are two levels of grant: the first for schools wishing to explore the possibility of transformation by holding meetings and a ballot; the second for schools which have Department of Education approval for transformation and which need help to market the school's new identity and to meet the cost of such things as additional teacher training, new sports equipment or books.

INCREASING PLACES IN INTEGRATED SCHOOLS - IPIS, a funding scheme open to all integrated schools, to encourage and support their development and to increase the number of available places in integrated schools.

Every school in Northern Ireland will have received a leaflet outlining the full, million-pound programme, and details are on our website: www.ief.org.uk



Children from Pond Park Nursery School and St Aloysius Nursery Unit in Lisburn joined Sara Shields, Grants Officer of the Integrated Education Fund, to celebrate the pledge of a million pounds to promote and support integration between and within schools. The nurseries are working together in an IEF PACT (Promoting A Culture of Trust) scheme which brings children of different cultural backgrounds together to explore diversity.

Win/Win As IEF Teams Up With Graduates To Promote Sharing In Education

The Integrated Education Fund has benefited from £20,000 in web design services from Fresh Made Media, won through their Charity Web Design competition. The Belfast-based web company invited charities to describe how they would use the prize to develop their online presence and the IEF proposal was unanimously chosen.

The charity web design programme was set up to provide top graduates from the University of Ulster with high-level project experience under the guidance of Fresh Made Media, while delivering a brand new web presence to a Northern Ireland-based non-profit organisation.

The prize has enabled the Fund to develop a dedicated micro-site for the One School Of Thought campaign, beginning with the publication of the open letter to the Northern Ireland Assembly.



Ciaran Murray and Ryan Forsythe, Directors of Fresh Made Media are seen pictured with Paul Caskey, IEF Campaign Director and Siabhán McKenna, IEF Communications and PR Officer

See the results and pledge your support for the One School Of Thought campaign online today at www.oneschoolofthought.org.uk

30 Years Of Integrated Schools In Northern Ireland!



Many happy returns to Lagan College in South Belfast which celebrates its 30th birthday this year, marking the opening of the first formally integrated school. The College was founded in 1981 as a response to the challenges of community conflict and a divided school system in Northern Ireland.

All Children Together – founded by parents – argued that one of the most powerful ways Christians could respond to the charge that the fighting was about religion would be for Protestants and Catholics to educate their children together in the same schools. A letter from

Cecil Linehan to the Belfast Telegraph led to public meetings which in turn and in time led to the foundation of Lagan College.

The College opened in temporary premises at Ardnally Activity Centre beside the river Lagan in South Belfast, thanks to the hospitality of the Scout Movement.

On the first day there were 28 pupils, the Principal (Sheila Greenfield) one full-time teacher (Brian Lambkin) and three part-time teachers. The college had to move home several times before finding its present site in the Castlereagh Hills, and for the first few years received no government funding.

In March this year Lagan College finally got the official go-ahead for a new building, with completion due in June 2013.

As the school – now 30 years old – opened for the autumn term, past pupils and new students joined governors and senior staff to celebrate the success of the College, which now accommodates 1200 pupils. After a tour of the school and a look at the plans for the new build, guests enjoyed lunch and then joined special assemblies.

There are plenty of other events planned to mark the thirtieth anniversary – watch this space!



Lagan College finally got the go ahead this year for a new school, due for completion in 2013. Previous education Minister, Caitriona Ruane is seen pictured with pupils, staff and governors at the first sod cutting in June this year.



Richard Sherry was one of 28 pupils who joined Lagan College on its first day in 1981. Richard is currently the Production Manager at the Ulster Tatler Magazine:

My first morning at Lagan College was very momentous. My Mum dropped me off at a hidden entrance behind the legendary Ardnally Scout Hall; from there we were guided along a woodland path to avoid the world's media and the protest against integrated education at the front gate.

At the time, I think you felt a bit like a celebrity with so much media attention, and all for just 28 pupils! We had no school uniform as it hadn't been designed and I can remember that when we went into the hall for lessons it was divided into two, with the two classes separated by a curtain.

By Easter 1982, we had moved up to our new site on Church Road in the Castlereagh Hills. This felt more like a real school; we had two classrooms and a proper playground. In those days it was all hands to the deck, my Mum even helped out with dinner duties.

We had an excellent and dedicated teaching staff led by Mrs Greenfield. It wasn't unusual to be interrupted in class by Mrs Greenfield who would have a camera crew in tow! In the Spring we were visited by a group from Holland who were backing the school from their homeland. When we learned that all 28 of us were going on our first school-trip to Holland in June, we were filled with excitement. Brian Boyle and I stayed with a family in Amsterdam, it was a great experience for us, the highlight being visiting the Anne Frank house.

Attending Lagan College had a very positive impact on my life. You quickly learned not to have any pre-conceived ideas about your classmates. Belfast was a very turbulent place in 1981, but mixing with children from different denominations and backgrounds meant friendships were formed that I have maintained to this day. Any success I have had up to now in my career has been largely due to the education I received at Lagan College and I even met my wife at a school reunion over 20 years ago!

My Memories Of Lagan College

By Richard Sherry

Speaking: Personally

September 1981: The First Days Of Lagan College By Sheila Greenfield

Sheila Greenfield was the founding principal of Lagan College. Thirty years after the school first opened, she looks back at what was a challenging but also a very inspiring time:

Before the school opened, a picnic for the 28 new pupils and their parents was held at the Giants Causeway outside Belfast. At exactly four o'clock, over the rim of the field suddenly appeared four TV crews, seeking to interview children, parents and staff. Obviously the progress of this pioneering and fledgling school was going to be of enormous interest.

We planned for children with their parents to arrive at 11.00am via a back entrance to the Scout premises at Ardnally, both to avoid the press and for fear of local protesters. Smart in their grey, black and white clothes, they wore no identification. Scouts and RUC officers patrolled the grounds. To avoid unwelcome exposure, children left at 2.30pm. Five teachers were present, myself and Brian Lambkin full timers, and Doreen Budd, Joan Maguire and Margaret Jellett part time.

Each morning all school equipment including desks and blackboards had to be carried from a cupboard and two classrooms assembled, with a thin partition between them. Pupils claimed anyone receiving a wiggling could be heard by the entire school! Children were collected from the bus and train stations by Mr Hanna, the Scout caretaker. After the first four days, the school bought its own second-hand minibus, which broke down on its very first journey!



Some of the first pupils through the door back in 1981 popped back to the school to join in with the anniversary celebrations



Parents were amazing. They came every day to supervise school (packed) lunches, to clean the premises and to provide transport.

Mrs Hegarty, the part time clerical assistant, had nowhere to work so used her briefcase as an office. Press interest persisted and French and Finnish TV crews had to be asked to leave the premises.

My first major crisis arrived very early. The Scout premises had a Union Jack on the wall and my Catholic teachers rapidly advised me that this would be offensive to Catholics and that I must ask the Scouts to remove it. I spent a very worrying night. We were deeply indebted to the Scouts for allowing us to use their premises, for all our other searches for suitable property had failed.

Imagine my surprise in arriving the next morning to be congratulated by Brian Lambkin. The Union Jack had disappeared! I learned later that the Scout leaders themselves had removed the flag, in case it got chalk on it! My first crisis had been averted but I felt then, as I did on many later occasions, that a miracle had been performed.



The first class of pupils on their first school trip to Holland (picture courtesy of Richard Sherry)

What They Said:

"Too few young people have had regular opportunities at school to make sustained contact with children from backgrounds and cultures different from their own... All schools and communities need to be actively supported in developing solutions which result in meaningful sharing, including on a cross-community basis."

Community Relations Council

"The One School of Thought campaign is a proactive approach to trying to identify the solutions that are going to make a real difference to our society and our economy."

Joanne Stuart, IEF Trustee and the Director of Attrus Ltd

"I'm an example of where you didn't have a 'One School of Thought' campaign and look at the way I ended up!"

Jake O'Kane, Belfast Based Stand-Up Comedian

"There are undoubtedly difficult decisions ahead for not only the education minister, but for the schools, respective sectors and the managing authorities. However, an education system fit for the 21st century will not be achieved by making easy decisions."

Daithi McKay, Sinn Fein MLA and member of the Education Committee



one school of thought

The campaign continues....and it will move faster with YOUR involvement. Getting involved is very simple: click, read and sign.

Log on to www.oneschoolofthought.org.uk and read the open letter which kicked off the campaign, the comments from supporters, and our plan of action. Then, to join the campaign, just add your name, email address and postcode on the Get Involved page.

If you feel you can do more, the easiest action is to share the link with all your email contacts and ask them to sign up.

You can also write to your local politicians urging them to act on the wishes of voters who support more integration and meaningful sharing for our young people. If you want to organise a local meeting to discuss the best way forward for schools in your area, the IEF can help.

It's simple – the more people get involved, the more the Assembly and the Executive have to take notice.



The One School Of Thought campaign calls on our politicians, as a matter of priority, to reach consensus on growing an education system fit for the 21st century in which all children learn and are taught together in their local schools.

Pledge your support for the campaign online today at

www.oneschoolofthought.org.uk



www.oneschoolofthought.org.uk

School Reform Is Too Vital To Leave Just To Politicians

By Marie Cowan, IEF Acting Chair

Extract from a Belfast Telegraph article on 16 September 2011



Public figures, from business, sports, the arts and civic society have put their names to a call for a body to be set up, independent of party politics, to examine the way we educate children from their early years onwards. We want a commission to make recommendations which will bring us into a shared future with sound academic and training outcomes for all our young people. That's aiming high, but surely each new generation deserves nothing less?

A commission, some will cry – we've had those, they drag on, they take money from tax-payers and put it into consultants' or lawyers' pockets. But the past model could be improved upon, with strict parameters, evidence from a range of people directly involved in education, and a time limit in which to research, report and recommend.

And can we really afford NOT to establish a commission? We have money wasted on empty desks, on bussing pupils past good local schools to buildings run by a different management body. On a larger scale we saw the establishment of ESA, at a cost of £11m, and still it has not begun work. We have seen money spent on a feasibility study for a future campus at Lisanelly in Omagh, but not a brick laid. Politicians have hardly moved things on over the years, and it's clearly costing us dear to continue as we are.

The breadth of support for our campaign shows how wider society wants to see our children offered a better chance to grow into mature, well-rounded citizens, fit for work and able to take their place in the community – a community which is broadening and offering new horizons all the time.

To have your say
visit
oneschoolofthought.org.uk

Have Your Say

"I fully support the One School of Thought campaign. I have worked with the Speedwell Trust for 10 years facilitating projects between controlled and maintained schools. There is a huge appetite out there for sharing, collaboration and working together. This campaign will provide the impetus for positive change in our education system. Let's get moving on this now - not in 5 or 10 years time!!"

Eamon McClean

"Everyone - including the Education Minister - seems to agree that it is not good that we segregate our kids in education. However, until this campaign, I have seen little in the way of action to change the system. Well done to the organisers for taking this step. We all need to tell our elected representatives that they cannot continue to use our children as political footballs."

Paul Smyth

"Let's stop teaching about diversity in our schools as a tick box exercise, and start actually practising it. The best way to learn about another culture / viewpoint / whatever is to live, work and learn alongside those who represent it. 'Mon. Let's get going.'"

Rick Monro

"Get rid of Segregated Education as soon as possible. It does our society a monstrous Harm. We need to know some are not being made a stranger to the other."

Edith Rhona Kerr

Political Support



Martin McGuinness, Deputy First Minister is pictured with Karin Eyben, IEF Public Affairs Manager and David Thompson, IEF Trustee.

We are planning to attend all of the political party conferences this year, and the calendar kicked off with the Sinn Fein Ard Fheis in September.

We were encouraged by the conversations we had with senior Sinn Fein politicians and in particular with the Minister for Education, John O'Dowd, who spoke of the issues facing education during his address to the Ard Fheis. The minister acknowledged the 50,000 empty school desks and stated that

"it is now time to start sharing education, not only across religious lines, but also across the socio-economic divide."

We presented the Open Letter to the delegates attending the Ard Fheis and had a very positive response with lots of new signatures to the campaign, including that of Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness.

We are looking forward to the upcoming UUP, SDLP, DUP and Alliance party conferences over the next couple of months!

Twenty-Five Years Of Integration In The Mournes

County Down's first integrated primary school marked 25 years of educating children together when past and present pupils, staff and governors gathered for a party at All Children's IPS in Newcastle.

People associated with the school since its earliest days gathered to celebrate, and commemorate the journey from campaign group to successful school. Children enjoyed a climbing wall, penalty-shootout, painting and drumming and also showed off their skills in music and Irish dancing. Guests were entertained by the Armagh Rhymers and by a singing duo of talented past pupils – Ria and Ross Maguire.



In 1991, All Children's became the first Controlled Integrated Primary School in the province enjoying full support and services from the South Eastern Education and Library Board. The initial enrolment of 65 children has grown to more than 200 pupils. The school moved from mobile classrooms into state-of-the-art premises in May 2004.

Principal Joyce McMeekin says "The 25th birthday party was a real family celebration and an opportunity to meet old friends who have an important thing in common – we all care passionately about a shared future for Northern Ireland, starting with our children."



Frances Rafferty, Belfast Rose 2010 is seen with Gíaran Moynagh, McLernon Moynagh Solicitors Rose Escort and fellow IEF volunteer

Baroness Blood Pays Tribute To The Belfast Rose

Baroness May Blood joined in the fun at this year's Rose of Tralee Antrim Selection Event which helped to raise funds for the IEF. The outgoing Belfast Rose, Frances Rafferty, who is also a teacher at Strangford Integrated College, chose the IEF as her nominated charity throughout her time as the Belfast Rose and continued her hard work at this year's selection event. The evening saw 23 Roses competing to take on the crown, and the Fund was delighted that Baroness Blood could find the time to attend, paying tribute to Frances for her support and telling the contestants, judges and audience about the work of the IEF.



Forge Celebrates 25th Anniversary.

Forge IPS celebrated its 25th anniversary year in style with an extra special BBQ and the unveiling of a new tiled mosaic made by pupils of the school. The evening got off to a musical start with live performances and readings from the "outdoor stage" (the school steps). The young performers were congratulated by Noreen

Campbell, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education.

Gifts were presented to two long-serving members of staff: Judy Heaney, a classroom assistant since the school opened in 1985, and Vice Principal Grainne Kerr, who has been 21 years at Forge IPS. A huge birthday cake was cut by current pupil Ryan McCann and Suzie Smyth, former Forge pupil and more recently Integrated Education Fund Projects Officer. Then it was time for food and fun – with archery, arts and crafts, face painting, a climbing wall and a dance mat on offer.

Chair of Governors, Michael Prendergast said "The event provided a chance for us to reflect on the good times and the challenges of the past but also to appreciate what we have here today in a happy, forward looking school."

Principal, Neville Watson commented that the team effort from pupils, parents, staff, and school governors was very much in keeping with the spirit of the school.





Broadcaster, William Crawley hosted the debate at NICVA and facilitated a very lively discussion between panellists and audience members

Civic Discussions On Education Reform

The conversation about the future of education has taken to the road recently, providing a platform for more and more voices to be heard. The IEF joined the Rural Community Network to host a conference on Sustaining Schools, Sustaining Communities in Ballyronan, where an economist reminded us that there's no reason we shouldn't have the education system we would like, even in times of financial crisis. Recorded voices of children from two Tyrone primary schools described how working together has enhanced their school experience. One key message which emerged was the crucial nature of the connections between a school and a rural community and their interdependence in terms of sustainability.

A few weeks later in Belfast the IEF and the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) held an event, chaired by BBC journalist William Crawley, looking at the future of education. A discussion led by a civic panel was followed by an opportunity to quiz a range of

politicians on issues such as building a shared future and the problem of reconciling the idea of parental choice with the duty to lead and reform. It was acknowledged that our education system is riddled with divisions of many kinds. It was also pointed out that many schools are already sharing and collaborating on a cross-community basis. However, some delegates expressed concern that many of these projects are dependent on short-term philanthropic funding which does not address the systemic nature of our divided education system; for example, how schools are planned, funded and managed. And one commented that these projects form models for sharing which the state could learn from, but which are ignored.

The event was closed by former IEF Trustee (and founding teacher of Lagan College) Brian Lambkin. He said the civil but impassioned debate from diverse viewpoints and experiences reflected what you'd find in an integrated classroom at its best.

These events have paved the way for further discussions, beginning in the Senate Chamber at Stormont this autumn and progressing throughout Northern Ireland over the next few months as more people join the debate.

Community Pages

Regular visitors to our website – www.ief.org.uk - will have noticed our new community pages. This is where you'll find details of events such as our civic discussions on the future of education which will be held around Northern Ireland in the coming months. We'll also be reporting on what is said and what comes out of these discussions. In addition, these pages will enable you to tell us what is happening in schools and communities and to enter into a broad discussion about sharing and integration and the future you want. .



Michelle Marken, former principal of St. Joseph's College Belfast, and Bernadette McAliskey, S.T.E.P. Co-ordinator are seen pictured during one of the panel debates

Politician Of The Future

Jake Proctor, a Year 11 pupil at Strangford Integrated College, is raising the profile of integrated education by getting involved in youth politics.

Involvement in School Council work, led to Jake taking an interest in activism outside school. He recently joined the Northern Ireland Youth Forum, after his enthusiasm for campaigning was noted by Dawn Purvis, Margaret Ritchie MP and Naomi Long MP. Jake was swiftly elected to the Forum's Executive Committee.

In Jake's time on the Youth Forum, he says he intends to voice the importance of integration "It's the key to a shared future in Northern Ireland; bringing young people from all communities together in schools is the number one factor in building a non-violent future." He has raised the issue at every opportunity, whether in a platform speech or a private conversation.

The next plan is to start work with the "Alliance Youth" organization early in the spring term.

Jake says the more people get involved in public life, the more people will get the message about sharing and integration. To find out more about the work of the Youth Forum you can contact Jake: jproctor462@strangfordcollege.carrowdore.ni.sch.uk





Members of The Green Team and Eco School assessors after Glencraig Integrated Primary School were presented with their first Green Flag

Glencraig Receives Green Flag Award!

In May 2011 Glencraig IPS received its first Eco Schools' Green Flag Award. The Eco Schools' Green Flag is a recognised and respected international eco-label for environmental education and performance.

Mrs Calwell, the Environment Co-ordinator, explained how the school has been developing an eco programme for the whole school community over the last two years. This has involved working on a number of projects based around the themes of energy conservation, waste minimisation, sustainable transport, encouraging healthy living, promoting bio-diversity, improving the school grounds and encouraging an awareness of world environmental issues. This work has been led by 'The Green Team' comprised of pupils, teachers, the caretaker and a member of the Board of Governors.



Pupils and staff at Cedar IPS were delighted to be awarded the ICT mark

ICT Awards For Integrated Primaries

Two integrated primary schools are celebrating achieving an ICT mark: Glencraig IPS in Hollywood and Cedar IPS in Crossgar.

The ICT Mark is an accreditation scheme available across the UK which recognises schools achieving a good standard of mature and effective use of technology. The award shows that the schools are committed to using ICT both in the curriculum and in administration and have developed a high level of competence and confidence among pupils and staff. Gillian McChesney, the IT co-ordinator at Glencraig IPS, says "Applying for the award really brought into focus the work we are doing with ICT every day. All the children and staff deserve credit for this achievement." Lindy Forster, Principal of Cedar IPS says "I'm delighted that we have been awarded the ICT mark. We believe that ICT can be used in every aspect of learning and that it is an essential part of equipping pupils for life in the modern world."



Officially Outstanding!

Congratulations to Shimna IC who won this year's Outstanding Community Partnership award from the Times Educational Supplement. Language teacher Laura O'Hare, who leads the Sharing Languages Sharing Cultures programme, travelled to London to receive the honour, along with Ian McMillan who founded the scheme four years ago with the financial support of Atlantic Philanthropies and the International Fund for Ireland.

The project was part of the Queen's University managed Shared Education Programme (SEP) and involved children from single-identity,

rural primaries coming together to learn languages, visiting each others' schools for joint classes. The success of partnerships is celebrated in joint events including a German puppet show, salsa lessons and international feasts. A very special element was the creation of a quilt, from squares made by each child involved. When the original SEP grant came to an end, the IEF was delighted that leading local businessman Dr Gerard O'Hare of Parker Green was so impressed that he wished to see the project continue. His support, combined with a match from Atlantic Philanthropies through SEP, and a commitment from Shimna IC and partner primaries to help raise additional funds, means that Sharing Languages Sharing Cultures is able to continue its work for a further three years.

Carson Awards Now Open



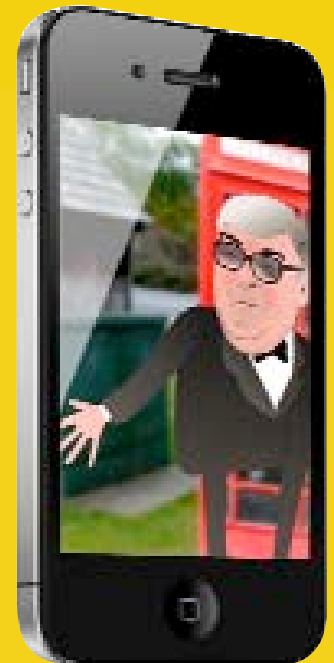
Creative students from integrated schools around Northern Ireland are urged to get making, painting, writing or acting and apply for the next round of Carson Awards. Sponsored by the celebrated Belfast comedian Frank Carson and his son Tony, The Carson Awards are an exciting opportunity for young people to express themselves creatively under the theme 'What Integration Means to Me'.

The Awards have two elements: Carson Bursaries are open to students in years 12, 13 and 14, and have been set up to help develop and complete creative projects with grants of up to £1,000.

The Carson Prize is for finished projects and is open to pupils at primary or second level. Projects must express "What Integration Means to Me" and can involve a collaboration between integrated schools and others of different management types.

We were impressed, as ever, by the standards of entrants this year, and we're looking forward to the annual awards ceremony later in October where we get to meet the winners.

To find out how you can enter, visit <http://www.ief.org.uk/grants/carson-awards>



Frank Tells 'Em On Your iPhone

Comedian Frank Carson is making sure iPhone users are never without a smile, at the same time raising money for integrated education, with an iPhone app called "It's a Cracker!"

The app enables users to have their very own stand-up at their fingertips, with Frank's son Tony kindly donating 10% of his share of any net profit to the IEF. Fans get a mini-Frank on their screen, and they can shake him to change the routine, or poke him for a classic gag.

After more than fifty years on stage and television, the Belfast-born comedy legend has been enjoying seeing himself in the virtual world. Frank says "At 84 years old it's been an interesting challenge to get involved with new technology - I'm delighted to be launching this iPhone app along with my son Tony, production company Cathleen's Island and the development team at Pyxl....I hope that those who grew up watching me on television in the 1970s and 80s will find a bit of nostalgia and that a whole new audience will come to realise that it's not just the jokes - it's the way I tell 'em."

Drumragh Pupil's Bid For Stardom

Janet Devlin, a student at Drumragh Integrated College, has quickly become one of the most hyped X Factor contestants this season. Hailing from Gortin, outside of Omagh, the young singer has been taking the talent-search show by storm, following her powerful rendition of Elton John's "Your Song" in the auditions.

Janet says she spends much of her free time at home reading, writing, and singing. This led to her triumph at Drumragh's heat in a local School



Stars competition this summer. Of her X Factor audition, her principal, Mr. Nigel Frith said "I've never heard her sing better."

The school is delighted for Janet's big opportunity, as she prepares to start her A-level studies at Drumragh.

"Our concern is to find a balance at school between supporting her academically and supporting her music," says Mr Frith. The priority now is to make Drumragh IC a safe, quiet place for Janet to be away from the media and the inevitable hype as she enters this next, exciting phase of her life.



Brian Small, IEF NI Fundraising Manager, is seen pictured with Anne Bryant, children's author, Denise MacFarlane, Principal of Corran IPS and George Fekkes, Chair of Corran IPS' Board of Governors

Corran Pupils Celebrate New 'Moroney' Library

Lucky bookworms at Corran Integrated Primary School are celebrating a well-stocked, brand-new library thanks to the support of the Jim and Lynn Moroney Family Foundation in Dallas, Texas.

The new facility has been installed thanks to a \$20,000 donation from the Foundation. Brian Small, NI Fundraising Manager of the IEF, a regular visitor to Dallas where he meets with our many friends and donors based there, helped secure the gift. Brian was joined at the celebration by author Ann Bryant, who has written fiction for all ages as well as music teaching materials. Ann travelled from England to meet the Corran pupils.

A recent book sale at the school saw a turnover of more than a thousand pounds, so it's clear the children love to read and will make the most of the new facility.

The pupils will be sending photos and letters to the Texas-based donors to thank them for their support, and keep them up to date with events at the school, no doubt including the library celebrations.



Baroness Blood is seen pictured with Comedian, Tim McGarry as the races start.

Visit www.ief.org.uk/news to see more photos of the event

Backing A Winner

In September, the Integrated Education Fund was delighted to welcome guests to the stylish Moscow Flyer suite at Down Royal Racecourse for food, fun and the odd flutter. The glamorous event was not only a great social occasion, but also helped a great cause, raising much-needed funds for our charity. It was lovely to see so many of our supporters enjoying the entertainment and the company.

Baroness Blood, IEF Campaign Chair, expressed her gratitude to all present for their generosity to the Fund, especially our very kind sponsors and long-time supporters Terry Cross (Delta Packaging), David Mackey (Fire IMC) and David Watters (RM McClure Watters). Special thanks must go to our exhibiting artists Christine Trueman (Chair of Board of Governors of Millennium IPS) and Dr David Sweet for bravely putting their 'arts' on the line with their stunning paintings – two truly gifted artists. Prizes were also generously donated by John Reid of Warner Music and Mike Todd of Down Royal. Leo Callow did his usual professional job perfectly as our MC and our 'megastar' celebrity speaker Tim McGarry wowed the guests with a classy after-dinner comedy barrage which commanded spontaneous appreciation. Once again this year the unique display talents of Mitzi Gillespie and Emer Harrington (Holistic Events) transformed the Moscow Flyer suite and created the perfect ambience for a thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile afternoon.

At the tail end of the evening guests were treated to an emotional and poignant rendition of 'Parting Glass' by Northern Ireland's singing sensations, 'The Intergates' (namely the IEF's Brian Small and GB Volunteer Chair David Cooke) – prompting a hail of cash and calls for 'encore'! All agreed it was a great day and a great way to raise money for a great cause.



Mitzi Gillespie and Emer Harrington (Holistic Events) transformed the venue and created the perfect ambience for a fantastic day out



IEF Supporter Chris Lynas is seen pictured with family and guests during the races

Legends Vow To Keep 'Er Lit For Integration

Barry McGuigan and Frank Carson took to the stage in London one April evening for a new IEF event entitled Keep 'Er Lit.

The entertaining evening offered an opportunity to support integrated education as well as to meet, relax and have fun - Keep 'Er Lit is a social occasion supporting a shared future for Northern Ireland, facilitated by the IEF. The first party saw more than a hundred ex-pats gather at O'Neill's in Wardour Street where they were treated to live music, comedy, food and DJs. They could also enjoy a video compilation of Northern Ireland's greatest sporting moments including international soccer, boxing, GAA, rugby, athletics and golf. Many guests left hoping that Keep 'Er Lit will become a regular fixture in the social calendar.



Pictured with Barry McGuigan and Frank Carson during the event are Louise Jefferson, Katie Easton and Shelley Marsden

Visit www.ief.org.uk/news to see more photos of the event



ABOVE: Seen pictured enjoying the evening are Cliff Reeves, Nigel Hannon, Murdoch McGregor Smith and Rachel Hannon



41-43 University Street
Belfast BT7 1FY
Northern Ireland

t: 028 9033 0031
f: 028 9033 0061
e: info@ief.org.uk

www.ief.org.uk

www.facebook.com/IntegratedEducationFund

www.twitter.com/iefni



25 College Gardens
Belfast
BT9 6BS
Northern Ireland

t: 028 9023 6200
f: 028 9023 6237
e: info@nicie.org.uk



Ten Club A Small Way To Make A Great Contribution

The Fund has recently re-launched its Ten Club initiative so that everyone can get involved in supporting its work on a regular basis. By donating just £10 a month (or more if you can) you will be enabling more money to be donated to projects supporting growth and development in integrated schools and through meaningful sharing projects.

Since 1998 the IEF has contributed over £16 million to integrated education and cross community initiatives across Northern Ireland. There are very few integrated schools that have not benefited substantially from the Fund at some point in their development.

Please help and support us by visiting www.ief.org.uk where you can join today and start donating! You can also call Gemma Marlowe at the IEF on 028 9033 0031 if you would like more information, or email gemma@ief.org.uk.





one school of thought

Calling for an education system fit for the 21st Century

The One School Of Thought campaign calls on our politicians, as a matter of priority, to reach consensus on growing an education system fit for the 21st century in which all children learn and are taught together in their local schools.

Pledge your support for the campaign online today at
oneschoolofthought.org.uk

