

## Politicians Pledge Support for Integrated Education

Caitriona Ruane, Sinn Fein MLA for South Down and the new Minister for Education in the Northern Ireland Assembly, has pledged her support for Integrated Education and Irish-medium schools. She said, "One of the challenges facing me as future Minister for Education will be to take forward the idea of sharing within and between schools. I want to support parental choice and to continue to develop both the integrated and Irish-medium sectors".

Ms Ruane attended both the Integrated Education Short Film Awards on Wednesday 25th April at Queens Film Theatre and the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education's (NICIE) Conference the following day, Thursday 26th April, at the Park Plaza Hotel, Antrim.

"We were delighted that Caitriona took time out from her busy schedule to attend two consecutive events," said Michael Wardlow, NICIE Chief Executive. "It demonstrated a public commitment to Integrated Education and we look forward to working with her in the future. Having an Education Minister who understands the problems and issues surrounding Integrated Education will be of great benefit to the sector and we wish her well in her new role."

Caitriona Ruane is not the only high profile politician to endorse Integrated Education in recent weeks. The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, sent a letter of congratulations to mark the 25th Anniversary of the movement.

He said, "Integrated Education has shown

a way for children from different religions, different backgrounds, to learn together and be together. It has provided children with an opportunity to learn about difference rather than fear. Let me assure you that the Government recognises that the integrated sector, together with all sectors of education, has a vital role to play in shaping a shared future for Northern Ireland. I wish the movement well in its celebration of the first 25 years of Integrated Education in Northern Ireland".

Baroness May Blood, IEF Campaign Chair said, "It is truly a wonderful gesture on behalf of the Prime Minister to recognise and acknowledge the contribution that Integrated Education continues to make towards building a peaceful society in Northern Ireland".

For the full text of Tony Blair's letter, visit [www.nicie.org](http://www.nicie.org)



Caitriona Ruane with integrated school pupils at the NICIE Short Film Competition



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If you have any stories that you would like included in future Integrated Education newsletters then please contact Philip O'Sullivan at NICIE or Sam Fitzsimmons at IEF

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## News in Brief

### Priory Pupils Meet Taoiseach Bertie Ahern

Two pupils from Priory Integrated College Hollywood, Joanne Barnard and Joshua Clegg, accompanied by Acting Principal Peter McCreadie and teacher Corinne Allen, travelled to Youghall in County Cork to attend the official opening of Pobalscoil na Tríonóide (Trinity Community College). This new school was officially opened by The Republic of Ireland's Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, on 2nd March.



### Bad Hair Day at Erne Integrated College

On 4th April, Erne Integrated College participated in the Fair Play Hair Day in aid of Special Olympics Ireland. The school winners are pictured: Rhiannon O'Shea and Nairyan Kirk in the back, along with Mark McIntyre, Stacey Murphy and Hannah Steinhoff in the front.



# Integrated Education Short Film Awards

120 children attended the Integrated Education Short Film Awards on 25th April at the Queen's Film Theatre. As part of the 25th Anniversary celebrations, integrated schools were invited to enter a 6 minute film on 'What Integrated Education Means to Me'.

Deborah Girvan, NICIE Communications Manager, commented that, "the judging panel was impressed by the quality of the films. It was humbling to watch and listen to the children explain in their own special way how integrated education had impacted upon their lives."

The winners were awarded fabulous Tipperary Crystal trophies designed by Louise Kennedy. Jody Hughes, Tipperary Crystal Northern Ireland Manager, said, "We are delighted to be sponsoring the Integrated Education Short Film Competition. We are very proud to be associated with such a worthwhile movement which aims to educate children - Protestant, Catholic, other faiths and none - together".



Rowallane Integrated College pupils Rachel Andrews and Ryan Montgomery receiving their award from Jody Hughes.

Cinemagic also contributed to the prizes, offering four places on their young film makers' workshops and tickets to attend a showing at next year's Cinemagic programme.

Special guest Michael Macy, the cultural attaché to the US Embassy in London, officially opened the Awards ceremony and congratulated the children on their significant achievements.

Education Minister Caitríona Ruane, also attended, saying:

"I believe that our education system must recognise the worth of every child and support the development of creative, articulate and confident children and young people. I am pleased to demonstrate support for this celebration of creativity, and pleased to support this event organised by the integrated education sector."

### Primary Award

- 1st place – Cedar Integrated Primary School
- 2nd place – Braidside Integrated Primary School
- 3rd place – Enniskillen Integrated Primary School

### College Award

- 1st place – Rowallane Integrated College
- 2nd place – Slemish Integrated College
- 3rd place – Shimna Integrated College



Cedar Integrated Primary School pupils Shannon Hiscutt and Lauren Glendinning receiving their award from Jody Hughes.

## Belfast Young People 'Get Back to Where They Come From'

A diverse group of teenagers across Belfast have been taking part in a Young Roots Heritage Lottery funded project to explore their diverse cultural heritage and identity. Their work culminated with the launch of the 'Getting Back to Where We Come From' exhibition at the City Hall, Belfast on 13th March.

The centre piece of this innovative exhibition is a freestanding wall. Displayed on one side of the wall is an eclectic mix of objects on loan from the Ulster Museum, such as shackles once worn by a slave from Sierra Leone next to young people's personal objects such as a collar belonging to a much loved pet. The juxtaposition of such objects helps to trigger associations between the past and present, local and global issues. On the other side of the wall the young people have drawn a mural incorporating symbols and emblems to represent themselves.



# Celebrating 25 years of Integrated Education

## Gala Dinner

This academic year the Integrated Education movement is celebrating its 25th anniversary culminating with a Gala Dinner at the Armagh City Hotel on Saturday 3rd March. This commemorative occasion formed part of our year long celebrations and it was a fantastic opportunity for everyone (staff, governors, parents and past pupils) to join together, eat great food and be entertained by the brilliant band 'Club Sound'. The master of ceremonies for the evening was none other than George Jones, with guests being thoroughly entertained by the touching speeches of how integrated education has evolved over the last 25 years into the movement we know today, along with two fantastic performances by Saints and Scholars IPS and Armagh IC choirs. One of the highlights of the evening was a fantastic speech by 9 year old Allister McCord from Portadown Integrated Primary School, which even included a very amusing poetry recital!



Allister McCord- Portadown IPS



NICIE Staff



Colm Cavanagh and Lord Dubs



Saints and Scholars IPS Choir



Fabiana Vito and Leonie Gracie - Brownlow CIC



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George Jones and Cecil Linehan

## Integrated Education Week

Following this celebratory evening Integrated Education Week kicked off with a special appearance of the Coors Belfast Giant stars at Cranmore Integrated Primary School on Monday 5th March. The P7 classes at Cranmore, Forge, Hazelwood, Loughview, Millennium and Oakwood integrated primary schools were put through their paces with a fun and interactive session led by the Giants' players. Todd 'Killer' Kelman, General Manager of the Belfast Giants, said, "I was really delighted to help celebrate Integrated Education Week 2007. We had a great time at the schools and I was really impressed with the standard of all the Giant Task entries."

The winning class from Oakwood Integrated Primary School, spent a 'Giant Day Out' at the Odyssey, watching the Giants during training as well as having a backstage tour of the Odyssey Arena, followed by a game of bowling and some lunch, generously donated by the Sheridan Group. During Integrated Education Week each school is free to use their imagination and come up with their own unique ways of celebrating and promoting Integrated Education and this year was no exception; with time capsules being buried on school grounds, trees being planted, classes on the theme of the number 25 and the colour silver, special assemblies and sponsored charity events.



The Belfast Giant Stars with Cranmore IPS pupils



Oakwood IPS pupils outside the Odyssey

# From Tolerance to Trust

In keeping with the optimism of a new beginning in Northern Ireland under a new devolved government, the PACT programme, formerly known as Promoting a Culture of Tolerance, has been relaunched with a new name for 2007 - Promoting A Culture of Trust.

PACT VIII is continuing the work of earlier rounds of the PACT programme, providing further opportunities, through grants, to schools actively working to

contribute to a society where people of different cultures and traditions understand and respect their differences and recognise and appreciate what they hold in common. The PACT programme is open to all schools in Northern Ireland, as well as organisations and groups working within schools.

Since the PACT programme was set up in 2000 over 250 schools and organisations have benefited directly and indirectly, from a budget of over £335,000. Based on the success of PACT the IEF have secured additional funding from the Department of Education for future rounds of PACT, with a total of £100,000 available for this year's grant programme.

Geraldine Tigchelaar, Chair of the Fund, said "We are committed to making the funding accessible to as many people as possible. The success of PACT and the growing interest in the programme is testimony to the determination that exists in schools across Northern Ireland to contribute to peace building and to undertake vital cross-community work."

A new PACT booklet, A Guide to Working Together Effectively, uses actual projects to inform and illustrate ways in which the planning and delivery of projects might be enhanced. The booklet is available online at [www.ief.org.uk](http://www.ief.org.uk) or from the IEF.



**Sammy Wilson, DUP, Geraldine Tigchelaar, IEF and Sean Neeson, Alliance with pupils from Corran IPS at the launch of the PACT Booklet**

## Rights Respecting School Award goes to Clogher Valley IPS

Clogher Valley Integrated Primary School is to be awarded the prestigious Rights Respecting School Award by UNICEF, the world's leading organisation working specifically for children.

The school will be awarded with the certificate to mark their achievement at an event facilitated by the Children's Rights Commissioner for Northern Ireland, Patricia Lewsley, in Antrim on Wednesday 13 June. UNICEF Education Officer for Northern Ireland, Mrs Geraldine O'Kane, said "The language of Rights, Respect and Responsibility could be heard and the impact seen around the school in many ways. The children in Clogher Valley Integrated Primary School have come to realise they have a responsibility to themselves to ensure that they take the opportunities that these rights offer and become eager to uphold and promote the rights of children and young people worldwide, making this an excellent starting point for global citizenship."

## Cheers for Integrated Education

The Integrated Education Fund has teamed up with one of Northern Ireland's top Wine Merchants, James Nicholson for a unique fundraising opportunity. A limited edition of Shiraz and Chardonnay wines has been provided by Mr Nicholson, with profits from each bottle sold benefiting the Integrated Education Fund. Entitled 'Reach', each wine features distinctive labelling from local artist Nicola Russell.

'Reach' was launched with a successful evening reception in April at James Nicholson Wine Merchant's flagship Crossgar premises. Speaking of his support for the Integrated Education Fund, Mr. Nicholson said that he hoped "to make a healthy contribution to the charity by offering a unique work of art, both inside and outside the bottle." He has named the IEF as his business' Charity Of The Year for 2007. 'Reach' is currently available from James Nicholson Wine Merchant or through the Integrated Education Fund while stocks last. [www.jnwine.com](http://www.jnwine.com)



**James Nicholson, Nicola Russell and Baroness May Blood raise a glass to Integrated Education**

## Baroness Blood Portrait Unveiled

A portrait of Baroness Blood was unveiled at a Reception at Hillsborough Castle on 22nd March by US Consul General Dean Pittman. The portrait, by leading Irish artist Nicola Russell, was commissioned by the Integrated Education Fund's Board of Trustees in recognition of Baroness Blood's outstanding contribution to its Campaign.

Baroness Blood was also delighted to receive a very special portrait created by the pupils of Cranmore Integrated Primary School. Rachael and Siva, P7 pupils at Cranmore IPS, accompanied by their principal, Ms Helen Farrimond, presented Baroness Blood with their Picasso style creation.



**Baroness Blood reflecting on the fine work of art**

## A little thank-you...

The IEF is grateful to their many supporters who continue to help the growth and development of Integrated Education in Northern Ireland.

The Fund would like to give a special mention to a few people who have recently held an enlistment event on behalf of the campaign:

**Brian Dickie** who hosted the Investcorp dinner, and a special thank you to David Liddington for his contribution to the very successful evening.

**Guy Beringer** for hosting the Allen and Overy Dinner

**Dr Alan Gillespie** for hosting a private luncheon at Ulster Bank

## Conference celebrates and challenges Integrated Education

An education conference on 'Leading and Sharing into the Future' organised by NICIE took place on 26th and 27th April at the Park Plaza Hotel, Antrim.

This conference was designed to give integrated schools an opportunity to discuss some of the changes, challenges and implications for them in this new era for education in Northern Ireland.

Caitriona Ruane, the future Education Minister, attended the conference and said: 'One of the challenges facing me as future Minister for Education will be to take forward the idea of sharing within and between schools. Integrated schools offer one such model of sharing and it is appropriate in the 25th year of the movement that the schools take an opportunity to reflect on the past and celebrate their many achievements. It is, however, also important that the integrated movement challenges itself by listening to others and discussing possible future opportunities.'



**Sandy Smith (IFI), Michael Wardlow (NICIE), Caitriona Ruane (Education Minister), Alderman Sam Dunlop (Mayor of Antrim), Sir George Bain**

The conference focused on three areas; sharing, leadership and the future. The session on sharing explored the Bain Report with Sir George Bain. Sir George Bain commented: 'The goal of A Shared Future, and a commitment by all school sectors, and by each school, to play their part in working towards that goal, suggests a more pervasive and inclusive strategy, focused on the dynamic process of integrating education across the school system.' Professor Tony Gallagher from Queen's University also looked at sharing and collaboration in the Northern Ireland educational context.

On leadership, Marion Matchett, the Education and Training Inspectorate, and Charlie Sproule, CCEA, highlighted key changes in education- specifically the implications of Educational Reform for School Leadership. Workshops included Dr Claire McGlynn, QUB, on leadership approaches to school development.

Robson Davison, Deputy Secretary from the Department of Education, and Dr Tom Hesketh, the Regional Training Unit, were the key note speakers on the theme of the future. Other notable speakers at the conference included Professor Maurice Stringer, University of Ulster, and Professor Tony Booth.



**Roisin Marshall (NICIE) and Dr Claire McGlynn (QUB)**

## Northern Ireland Young Voters Quiz Politicians

Over 180 first time voters and politics students from the integrated education sector participated in a question time session with local politicians at Lagan College in Belfast on 27th February. A first for Integrated Education, the event gathered representatives from six political parties who

agreed to answer questions on issues of concern to these young people. Seamus McKee was the host of this interesting and thought provoking event.

Deborah Girvan, NICIE Communications Manager, was delighted at the positive response: "Young people have, in the past, been turned off by politics. This event helped to re-energise their interest and, at the same time, alert politicians to the importance of the young person's vote". The aim of the integrated education sector is to promote understanding and tolerance between communities and it is therefore appropriate that students get to hear as many points of political view as possible.



## News in Brief



### Italian Experience

Drumragh Integrated College students have just returned from a trip of a life time. The Geography Department organised a week of activities spanning from Rome to Sorrento, along the Amalfi coast, for students studying Geography at A Level.

Students enjoyed an action packed day in Rome, experiencing the cultural and geographical backdrop of the modern multi-cultural city. Drumragh College then travelled by coach to their base in Sorrento, from here the group visited the legendary volcano of Vesuvius and the town of Pompeii.

### International Confederation of Principals Conference

Alan Dalton (Principal, Strangford Integrated College) and Jon Beattie (Vice-Principal, Glencraig Integrated Primary School) have recently returned from attending the 8th International Confederation of Principals Conference in New Zealand.

The visit involved a week long series of visits to schools in the Auckland area, which allowed an opportunity to explore a range of educational issues including school leadership, inclusion, community involvement and how New Zealand was dealing with very ethnically diverse school communities.



# Washington welcomes Rowallane

Rowallane Integrated College pupils, Ryan Montgomery and Tony O'Malley, flew to Washington on March 12th 2007 with their Principal, Dr Olwen Griffith, for a five day action packed trip culminating in a visit to the White House to join in the celebrations for St Patrick's Day.

The invitation to visit the White House from President George Bush will be seen as a further vote of confidence for the many parents who are working to provide an Integrated Education for their children in the mid-Down area after being turned down twice for government funding.

To secure its survival the IEF have pledged £1million to support the development of the school, while it continues to campaign for government funding. A huge and substantial part of this pledge comes from The American Ireland Fund, avid and long standing supporters of Integrated Education, who have very generously pledged \$1 million to support Rowallane IC.

Geraldine Tigchelaar OBE, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the IEF, said "The invitation extended by President Bush is a great honour for the Integrated Movement in this the 25th Anniversary year of the founding of



President George Bush and Taoiseach Bertie Ahern with Rowallane students, Ryan and Tony and their principal Dr Olwen Griffith at the White House

the first Integrated school, Lagan College. I would like to extend our gratitude to the US Consul General Dean Pittman and his staff for their unceasing support and for facilitating this once in a lifetime opportunity for Tony and Ryan."

## Mo Mowlam honoured by Integrated School

Just days before the restoration of a devolved Assembly at Stormont, one of the chief architects of the Good Friday Agreement, Mo Mowlam, was honoured when a new educational facility was named after her. The Mo Mowlam Centre at Oakwood Integrated Primary School was officially opened by the late Secretary of State's husband Jon Norton.

Olwin Frost, Principal of Oakwood, expressed her gratitude to the IEF, Jack and Jackie McDonnell of The American Ireland Fund, the Reconciliation Fund of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, the Durkan Group and the Department of Education for funding the Centre. "In 1999 Mo Mowlam enabled Oakwood's parents achieve their dream to educate their children together and to break

down cultural, religious and social divides in doing so. It is fitting that this centre, named in her honour, will help us break down those barriers to learning which disadvantage some of our young people." said Olwin.

The resources in The Mo Mowlam Centre have been selected to complement both the skills



Jon Norton and Oakwood's Special Needs Co-ordinator, Gillian Beck explore the new facilities of the Mo Mowlam Centre with a pupil

of teachers and the strategies they use as they break down the barriers to learning. The sensory deprivation room, in particular, will be a haven for children who are stressed by the classroom situation, or have difficulty with social interaction and communication.

Blue Peter presenter Zoe Salmon said "The provision of education opportunities for all is vital and this facility with a special needs room and quiet area will allow children who may not normally be able to cope with the pressures of mainstream schooling the ability to integrate and communicate with children of their own age-group."

Adding to the tributes, Eamon Holmes said "It was Mo Mowlam who encouraged me to lend my support to the Integrated Education Fund about ten years ago. The new centre at Oakwood is part of her legacy in the new Northern Ireland that we are all enjoying and a tremendous tribute to both her and the concept of children being schooled together regardless of religious or political persuasion. The real achievement is the acceptance and demand for Mo's vision. I'm sorry she didn't live to see that."



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## Upcoming Fundraising Events

 Down Royal Race Day - 30th August 2007

 BC Plant Gala Dinner - 20th October 2007

Avoid disappointment book your table early!

For further information contact Brian Small, IEF Northern Ireland Fundraising Manager on 028 9033 0031 or brian@ief.org.uk