

# Extended Schools

*schools,  
families,  
communities -  
working together*

WELB/SELB Extended Schools

Issue 5, June 2009

## Inside

### this issue:

Lough Project	2
EAL Club	2
Environmental Club	3
Literacy & Numeracy Classes	3
SELB Cluster Group Feature	3
Extended Schools' Awards	4
Extended Schools' Awards Winners	5
Hill Walking in the Mourne	6
English Language Support	6
After School Cookery Club	6
Safe Driving	7
Eco Club	7
Holistic Therapy	8
Breakfast Club Awards	8
Playground Games	8
WELB Cluster Group Feature	9
Safe Home for Me	9
Bridge to Health	9
NIESIS Update	10
Annual Reports 2008/2009	10
SELB/WELB Team	10

## Extended Nursery Day

Longtower Primary School have utilised the opportunities provided by the Extended Schools' Programme to collaborate with Sure Start Edenballymore to extend the school day for Nursery children from 1.30 pm until 3.00 pm for 3 days per week.

Both the children and parents have benefited greatly from this initiative. The children have developed their social, physical and communication skills and many close friendships have been established.



The parents have been able to utilise their extended hours of freedom to pursue interests

such as leisure, education and employment in the knowledge that their children are safe,



happy and enjoying a new learning experience. The Principal, Mr Devlin sums up the benefits of this programme by saying,

"The link with Sure Start has added great value to our Nursery provision through the sharing of expertise and resources. The outcome for us is that we have very happy children who love coming to school and who are now enriched with the skills that they require to access and progress through the Foundation Stage of the Revised Curriculum."

## Literacy & Numeracy Club

Through the help of the Extended Schools' programme St Michael's Primary School, Newtownhamilton ran a successful project addressing Literacy and Numeracy needs within the school and carried out a wide range of activities -

- Training reading partners to work with children for a 10 week stretch

- New books were purchased - a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction books. Emergent Reading books were sourced for EAL pupils and a variety of comprehension resources were made available

- An interactive whiteboard was purchased to enliven the pupil's interest in Literacy and Numeracy workshops

- Lots of Maths materials were

purchased to make mathematical concepts easier to grasp and

- Staff were committed to offering a more active learning approach to Literacy and Numeracy

Over 3 years all P5-P7 were offered the opportunity to stay after school to explore Literacy and Numeracy in a fun way. All pupils were screened at the outset of the Extended Schools project and have been tracked through to P7. Pupils who had average scores have improved, pupils who had above

average scores became better and pupils falling below 100 standardised scores recovered remarkably. The children enjoyed the extra attention of working in a small group. They were fully engaged in the learning process and the standardised scores over the past three years speak for themselves.



## Lough Project

Through the Extended Schools' Programme, St Teresa's Primary School, Loughmacrory were able to develop their involvement and links with Loughmacrory Development Association which has recently been acquired and redeveloped a Lough in the area. Their aim is to provide the children and the community with a learning environment which caters for biodiversity. St Teresa's want their children to take ownership of the Lough and be proud of their local area.

As part of their School Development Plan, 2008/9, they focussed on sustainable schools and planning to utilize the school grounds and the Lough as an outside learning resource and integrate this into the World Around Us, scheme of work.

They started a wildlife area in the school grounds with help from



parent helpers and have plans to create an environmental garden. The children have been involved in creating habitats and planting hedges in the school grounds. P4 children were also



involved in creating a bird box walk around the Lough. Parents and community members have helped to put up the thirty four different bird boxes and six bat boxes. They have also funded information posters that will be on display around the Lough. P5 children organised a litter pick and P6 children were shown how to hatch salmon eggs and release them into the stream.

This has been a fantastic start to our project and we intend to continue to use our local area as a learning resource.

We are very grateful to have been involved in the Extended Schools' Project as so many people have benefited.

*"P6 children hatched salmon eggs and released them into the stream."*

## English as an Additional Language (EAL) Club

St Malachy's Primary School, Armagh, English EAL Club, is open to all age groups and caters for all levels of English.

Parents and children learn together and the enthusiasm of Ms Eilish McNicholl, the teacher has created a very successful class.

The class is attended by approximately 20 adults and children and the school is delighted with the response from the local community.

The school has developed a better understanding of the different family's backgrounds and needs and the spoken

English of the group has improved which has led to better interaction with other cultures.

The self-esteem of both adults and children has increased with opportunities to learn new skills and to meet new people from other cultures.

Thanks to the Extended Schools' Programme the involvement of adults and

children in the class has also led to a greater appreciation of the role of parents within education, which can be developed right across the school.



*"spoken English of the group has improved"*

## Environmental Club

The Environmental Club in St Joseph's College, Coalisland involves pupils mainly from the Special Educational and Learning Support Centre. Pupils have developed the school garden, provided floral displays in the corridors, maintained a memorial garden and have also worked on a Grotto in the local Chapel. The Club improves kinaesthetic skills, employability chances and group work. Pupil's

health, well being and behaviour have improved and motivation and self-esteem has increased. The pupil's work is displayed around the school and comments from visitors, teachers and other pupils have given club members greater confidence and pride in their work.

The Environmental Club's success was recognised when the College was an

Award winner at the SELB Extended Schools Awards Ceremony in March 2009.



## Literacy and Numeracy Classes

The children in the P4-P7 year groups have had the opportunity to attend classes in Literacy and Numeracy before and after school on a twice weekly basis as part of the Extended Schools' programme at St Ronan's Primary School, Lisnaskea.

The classes have been open to all the children in the year groups and there has been an excellent uptake of the provision.

The importance attached to Literacy and Numeracy by all involved in education coupled with the highly positive feedback from pupils and parents about last year's provision of a similar extended school service played an important part in determining that we would continue to address these core areas of learning.

A Primary 4 pupil said "It's really good fun playing the maths games with the teacher and all your friends." This comment encapsulates the high level outcome which the provision targets, ie Enjoying, Learning and Achieving. The comment of P7 pupil, focuses more closely on the learning and achieving. "The classes really helped me with my English. I was better at maths than English but now I'm good at both."

These sample comments reflect the all round positive attitude of the pupils to their learning and St Ronan's are delighted to have highly motivated pupils achieving their potential in a happy learning environment.



### SELB Cluster Group Feature:

### SELB Extended Schools' Cluster

Saturday 25 April 2009 saw the opening of an exhibition of Extended Schools' Art Projects in the Burnavon Arts Centre in Cookstown.

*Project Tyrone* and *Project Graffiti* were two projects undertaken by pupils from Holy Trinity College, Cookstown, St Joseph's PS, Killeenan and St Mary's PS, Dunamore. Mr Stephen Farnan of Benburb Art School worked with pupils from each of the schools producing a 3D clay map of Tyrone highlighting the various landmarks and features in the area.

The project was a great way of bringing art, geography and history together in one piece of work.

The 3 panels have been mounted and framed and one will be displayed in each of the schools involved.

*Project Graffiti* was developed with a group of Year 11 pupils in Holy Trinity College who were looking at community awareness through their *Prince's Trust xl Programme*. The young people decided to do a project linking graffiti art and the issues that affect them and the Graffiti canvases will be displayed in Holy Trinity College.

Both projects were extremely successful and the young people (and indeed the adults!) involved thoroughly enjoyed participating in the projects.

They were involved in trying something new, gaining new skills, improving their confidence, mixing with pupils from the other schools, taking pride in their work and having their work not only recognised by their teachers and school but also in the wider community.



## EXTENDED SCHOOLS' AWARDS - CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

The Western Education & Library Board (WELB) and the Southern Education & Library Board (SELB), hosted three events in Derry, Omagh and Armagh, to mark the achievements of Extended Schools in both Boards over the past three years.

The events provided a golden opportunity to promote the programme, to acknowledge effective practice and provide awards and incentives to those who have put every effort into making the programme the success that it is.

In the informal settings there was ample opportunity for attendees to share experiences of the Extended Schools Programme, whilst the presentations reflected on progress to date and provided an overview of the way forward.

Speaking at the Western Board events to mark effective practice in Extended Schools, Mr Barry Mulholland, Chief Executive of the Western Education & Library Board, praised the efforts of schools and community groups for supporting young people and their families, especially those most affected by deprivation.

In his address, Mr Mulholland acknowledged the strong leadership and dedication of schools and communities alike. He thanked them for providing a guiding hand, careful mentoring and a listening ear to those young people and their families who, from time to time, found the struggle overwhelming.

Commenting on the successful

partnerships which had been forged to tackle local issues he pointed out that, developing the ethos and culture of an Extended School demands a concerted effort by an entire community. He added: "You have shown that this can be

achieved through your care and attention, your patience and understanding and your determination when the journey got a little uncomfortable."

Mr Robson Davison, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Education in Northern Ireland, was the special guest at the Omagh event and presented awards to a number of worthy recipients.

Mr Davison, in his remarks, thanked those assembled for their continued efforts and paid tribute to their achievements to date.



Extended Schools' Award winners pictured with Barry Mullholland, WELB Chief Executive and Paddy Mackey, WELB Senior Education Officer at a recent event held in Derry to celebrate the efforts of schools and community groups for supporting young people and their families in the North West area.



Extended Schools' Award winners pictured with Peter Duffy, WELB Chairman, Robson Davison, Deputy Permanent Secretary (DE), Barry Mullholland, WELB Chief Executive and Maud Cunningham, Chair of the Project Board for Extended Schools at the event in Omagh to celebrate the efforts of schools and community groups supporting young people and their families in the Tyrone and Fermanagh areas.

Each school received an Extended Schools' plaque and certificate. In addition, special trophies were presented to individuals and groups who had been nominated. In true 'BAFTA' style recipients of awards were not aware they had won, until nominations were announced. The events were well attended and provided an opportunity to share practice and celebrate success.

Helen Mc Clenaghan, Chief Executive of SELB, was delighted to attend the SELB Extended Schools Awards and make the presentations to all award winners as one of her last public duties as Chief Executive of the SELB. She congratulated schools on their innovative and exciting projects and commented that, "Reducing underachievement and enhancing life chances is certainly evident in the high quality work of the award winning schools, demonstrated today." Mrs McClenaghan also acknowledged the wide range of project nominations which highlighted the benefits for pupils, schools, families and communities.



Extended Schools' Award winners pictured with Helen McClenaghan, SELB Chief Executive, Paddy Mackey, SELB Senior Education Officer, Hazel Mullan, Head of LASS and the Extended Schools' Team at the Southern Board event held in Armagh to celebrate the efforts of schools and community groups for supporting young people and their families in the Armagh area.

Paddy Mackey WELB SEO, Peter Duffy WELB Chairman, Robson Davison, Deputy Permanent Secretary (DE), Barry Mulholland WELB CEO, Maude Cunningham, Chair of the Joint Education Committee, Martin Donnelly, CCMS and WELB CASS Officers pictured at the Extended Schools' Award ceremony in Omagh.



## WESTERN/SOUTHERN BOARD WINNERS

**Reducing Underachievement:** P Carlin, Galliagh NS; S Morahan, St Canice's PS; A McLaughlin, St Mary's College, Creggan; E McCallion, St Peter's HS (Triax area); M Brogan, St Peter's PS, Plumbridge; C Kelly, St Ronan's PS, Lisnaskea; S Devlin, St Mary's PS, Pomeroy; M Donnelly, St Colman's PS, Kilkeel; M Hampsey and L McQuaid, St Patrick's PS, Dungannon; M McKenna, St Malachy's PS, Armagh.

**Improving Life Chances:** M Storey, Little Hands SureStart; O Green, Greater Shantallow Community Arts; E Keys, Artigarvan PS; C Cosgrove, Speech Therapist, Galliagh NS; P Farrell, Ballykelly PS; K Holly, Oakgrove Integrated PS; B Armitage, St Comhghall's College, Lisnaskea; L Monaghan, St Joseph's PS, Drumquin; B McDermott, St John's Business and Enterprise College; A McCann and J Cassidy, Fermanagh 3 Cluster; South Armagh Cluster; L Brown, Lurgan Model PS.

**Integrating Delivery and Services:** The Whistle Project, Immaculate Conception College; C Ferguson, Greater Shantallow Area Partnership; D Hutton, Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum; S McCartney, Shantallow Community Residents Association; L Brown, Ebrington Community Summer Scheme; D Boyda, Edenballymore SureStart; Ceara School, Lurgan.



Plunkett Campbell, Vice Chair of the Extended Schools Project Board makes a presentation to Helen McClenaghan at her last official engagement prior to her retirement as Chief Executive of the Southern Board.

**Fostering Health, Well-Being & Social Inclusion:** J McGinley, Strabane Cluster; M Dobbins, Foyleview Playtrail; R Porter, Longtower and Fountain Judo Club; L Watson, Caw Community Group; J McGuinness and E Friel, Foyle View School; A Moore, Limavady Cluster; M McElhinney, St Finlough's PS Gardening Club; M Blayney, G Irwin and V Irwin, Denamona PS; P Bresnahan, St John's Business and Enterprise College; The Lough Project, St Teresa's PS, Loughmacrory; R Henry, Erne School; G Benson, Castlederg HS; F Pryce, Aghadrumsee PS; E Mulligan, Corran PS; V Cullen and J Mallon, St Joseph's College, Coalisland; A Clerkin, Railway Street NS; E Sweeney, St Colman's Abbey PS, Newry; Ms G Black, Coagh PS; Ms C McCooe, St John's PS, Gilford; S Collins, Holy Trinity College, Cookstown; M Cosgrove and M McAteer, St Mary's HS, Newry; C Trueman, Hart Memorial PS, Portadown; M Monaghan, St Clare's Convent PS, Newry.

## 'Hill Walking in the Mournes'

St Colman's Primary School, Kilkeel introduced a Hill Walking Club, which was offered to Primary 7 pupils as part of their Extended Schools' Programme. The availability of the skilled leadership of Mr C Clarke has been a tremendous asset to the school and he has developed a tremendous rapport with the children and staff.



This activity has given the children a great sense of identity, self-belief and self-confidence. It has allowed them to develop a sense of responsibility, an

understanding of their strengths and weaknesses and the importance of working as a team. It has allowed staff to gain experience in hill walking and some have indicated a desire to gain a relevant qualification. Families have commented on their children's enthusiasm, interest, sense of success and achievement and some have made enquiries of pursuing hill walking as a family.

Children and families are now appreciating and using the wonderful resource of the Mournes, which is on their doorstep.



'some have made enquiries of pursuing hill walking as a family.'

'children keep in touch with their culture'

'given the children skills for life'

## English Language Support

The Polish community in Limavady area is growing and St.Mary's High School, Limavady are proud of having seven Polish children at present. who came to school from different schools in Poland and their level of English varies as well as the ability to adapt to different our educational system.

Mrs Ewelina O'Donnell of Language Solutions provide English language support for all our Polish children. Through intensive English lessons St Mary's target Learning and Achieving and also Contributing Positively to Community and Society.

Overcoming language

barriers enables pupils to achieve great marks and develop their interest in different areas of study. With every lesson they feel more and more confident with their English and take part in school life without so much stress.

Through these classes children keep in touch with their culture, difficult material can be explained in native language which speeds up learning process and Polish families feel much more comfortable knowing that their children are well looked after by somebody who

understand their all needs.

**'Its great and we are all learning in a fun environment.'**

**' have improve my English so much!.'**



## After School Cookery Club

Lurgan Model Primary School, Craigavon has run a very successful After School Cookery Club. Primary 6 and & 7 pupils meet once a week and really enjoy being involved in the preparation, cooking, tidying up and of course sampling their produce and gaining many valuable life skills.

The enthusiasm for the Club encouraged the school to collate their favourite recipes alongside recipes submitted by the school community. A School Cookbook 'Model Menus' has been produced and each family will receive a cookbook at the end of term, this will include a large range of menus including starters, main courses desserts and smoothies.

The experience, expertise and enthusiasm of a member of the school's auxiliary staff has made this club a very successful part of the Extended Schools programme and given the children skills for life. Families have also benefited from the opportunity to try healthier meals at home.

## **A Pupil's Perspective: 'Safe Driving'**

I am a Yr 13 pupil at St Comhghall's College Lisnaskea, studying Double Award Applied Science and Mathematics. As part of our enrichment programme I have taken part in the driving lesson scheme.

This involves first of all registering with the College who in turn allocate two pupils to a fully qualified driving instructor. It is then up to the pupils to contact the instructor and arrange appointments. The instructor then takes two pupils at a time for a two hour session, one hour driving and one hour observation. In total the scheme provides each pupil with a total of twelve hours tuition.

From my point of view this scheme has provided me with an opportunity which I would otherwise not have had due to financial constraints and the fact that I have no direct access to a car at home. The total cost of the lessons is jointly funded by the Department of the Environment road safety education driver training scheme and the Extended Schools Programme.

All my friends are very much aware of the number of young people from our College who have been involved in serious road accidents over the last few years, in fact thirty three past pupils have died in road accidents since the College opened in 1970 not to mention the number that have been seriously injured. This driving lesson scheme has really raised awareness among us all of the importance of driving sensibly and behaving in a responsible manner both as a driver and a pedestrian. We do not want to become another statistic.

Hopefully I will obtain my full driving licence at the end of the scheme and this will in turn open up a wider range of career pathways. A quick glance at the job section in any newspaper will reveal that a vast number of jobs require the applicant to have a driving licence.

So I and my fellow pupils are thankful to St Comhghall's College, The Department of the Environment and the Extended Schools programme for improving our outlook on life and instilling in us the importance of being a responsible member of the community.



## **Eco Club**

Coagh Primary School this year, through the Extended Schools' programme, offered a new after-schools Eco-school club to P6 & P7 pupils as a way of promoting Energy Awareness and Conservation.

The pupils, led by the Principal, Mrs Gladys Black, quickly proved to be budding eco-enthusiasts by setting up their Eco-schools committee, making Action plans, and achieving set targets in energy conservation within the school. Recycling centres were set up in the school to recycle clothes, ink cartridges and mobile phones.

Through these worthwhile steps, the pupils have recently achieved their Bronze Eco-schools award and are currently working towards achieving their Silver and Green Flag awards which they hope to achieve by working with members of the community and a landscape gardener to create a Learning Ecosystem within the school grounds.

The Principal commented, "Working with the Eco-schools team has been such fun. They are so keen to partake in all activities and are very aware of the need to reduce our carbon footprint. They have shown tremendous ownership in the outdoors Learning Ecosystem, and as well as helping design and plan the area and have also taken part in a six week EARTH project, led by two local artists, sponsored by Cookstown District Council, to produce mini-beast models to be displayed in the finished garden."

The school was successful in obtaining additional funding for an Eco wildlife garden, which will provide a shared

space for pupils, parents, and the community for many years to come.

The wildlife garden will be a fantastic teaching tool and will develop good relationships by encouraging all sections of the community to come along and enjoy the simple aesthetic pleasures of viewing the garden.



**Coagh Primary School's Eco-schools team at the construction of the outdoors Learning Ecosystem in the school grounds.**

'... in years to come aspire to be something more than their background dictates.'

### A Parent's Perspective: Holistic Therapy

Ceara School, Lurgan employed Maïke Dring to deliver a programme of Holistic Therapy to pupils with severe learning difficulties and to their parents and this was only possible with Extended Schools funding.

The programme includes Aromatherapy, Reflexology and Facia Bowen and Maïke has developed a programme, which gives parents basic training in these techniques. Parents work with their child and receive one to one advice and training according to their child's needs.



This programme has promoted home school co-operation and enhances partnership between outside agencies and has developed an appreciation of how the therapist, parent and teachers can work together to benefit the child's

well being.

It has improved the outcomes for those families who could not normally benefit from similar facilities in the community because of their child's special needs.



An example of positive comments from parents -

*"We learnt a lot in a very short time. My son, has really benefited and I am carrying on at home with the massage and using the oils. Meeting and networking with other parents was very useful, as well as the hands on experience."*

*"I thought the holistic therapy was brilliant for my son. It calms and relaxes him. I continue to use the reflexology at home and it calms him in a way I normally couldn't."*

### Breakfast Club Plus Award Winner 2009

In association with Kellogg's, ContinYou has run a national Breakfast Club Plus Award scheme since 1998.

The best breakfast club providers across the country share a prize fund of £16,000 as recognition for their excellent work in extended schools and community services. The National Breakfast Club Awards, supported by Kellogg's and learning charity ContinYou, celebrate the achievements of all the clubs who help ensure thousands of children across the country get the best possible start to their day.



In the Western Board, Drumahoe Primary School received this prestigious award. They provide a myriad of activities for their pupils to take part in before school, including reading, playing games and craft activities. The Club itself is self-service, which encourages independence and the children are encouraged to clean up after themselves. The Club would like to spend their award money on laptops and printers, so that the children can develop their ICT skills, and on some books. Well done to Drumahoe Primary School!

### A Pupil's Perspective: Playground Games

Dromintee Primary School, South Armagh, playground is very small and has to use the local Community Centre when the weather is bad.

The school decided to spend a substantial portion of the Extended Schools funding on portable and storable playground resources. Their Action Plan included sessions to train the children in various playground games and they in turn will be encouraged to instruct their peers at school playtime.

A programme was drawn up over 6 weeks targeting children's play in the playground- making it more productive, challenging, fun and directing children to play solo, in pairs and groups using our new

Teachers then supervised the playground at break/lunchtime to reinforce the 'Extended Schools' direction and involve other non participating children in activities. Most children are now fully productive at break/lunchtime and are involved, using the resources, in stimulating, enjoyable play.

*"I can't wait to get into our playground to play skittles - we beat Primary 7 boys yesterday."*

*"It's fun now at playtime, we've something to do - only thing is time flies!"*

The atmosphere in the playground has changed; there now exists competition and a vibrancy. Thank You "Extended Schools".

'It's fun now at playtime'

**WELB Cluster Group Feature:****Contemporary Dance and Choral Singing**

Pupils from Aghadrumsee, Cornagague, Corran and St Tierney's Primary Schools in collaboration with St Eugene's College, Roslea participated in contemporary dance and choral singing workshops over two terms, co-ordinated by Mrs Jackie Cassidy, teacher and Ms Aravon McCann, tutor.

Pupils performed in a production of High School Musical and subsequently in a music and dance show supported by all the schools. Pupils were enthused and delighted with the activities and this was reflected in their willingness to participate each week.

Mrs Cassidy claimed the schools' success was testament to what could be achieved when worthwhile initiatives were financed by the

Department and supported throughout the schools and beyond. Mrs D Boyle principal of Cornagague Primary School described the impact these activities had on her pupils "Our pupils were simultaneously socialising, making new friends, keeping fit, working as a team, learning new skills, building confidence and self esteem and being creative by utilising a new resource in our area.

Without Extended Schools funding this would not have been available to them. Our finale was an exciting and enriching experience which will long be remembered by the participating pupils."

These sentiments were echoed by Mrs F Pryce principal of Aghadrumsee Primary School and she added "Through the programme the children

had the opportunity to work in a large setting as approximately 100 children of similar age came together to perform on stage. This has given the children a good insight into what it would be like to perform in a post primary setting and would hopefully be an invaluable experience as they enter post-primary."

**Agency Feature:****Safe Home For Me**

Safe Home For Me is an online accident prevention resource for children aged 3-7 years which aims to educate young children and their parents and carers about staying safe in the home. Since its launch in 2008 the site has attracted more than 63,204 hits.

[www.safehome4me.com](http://www.safehome4me.com) has been developed by the Promoting Wellbeing Team (PWT) of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) and complements the strands of Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) as set out in the Northern Ireland Curriculum for Foundation Stage and Key Stage One pupils. The site is presented in a way which is well suited for use on interactive whiteboards or individual PCs and is therefore a useful tool for teachers as it focuses directly on everyday activities that children do, so their interest and imagination will be stimulated. Through a series of interactive games and watch and learn sequences, it introduces children to behavioural, product and environmental risk factors that can lead to common home accidents. The teachers' pack which accompanies the website covers a range of safety topics, and aims to encourage discussion and provide further activities for children to learn about home safety. Teachers can download the pack and other home safety resources from the teachers section

of the website.

Accident prevention topics addressed by the resource include; bouncing (trampoline) accidents; burns and scalds; falling and crashing; poisoning; ear, nose and mouth accidents and; contacting the emergency services.

The resource was funded by the Southern Health and Social Services Board through the Northern Ireland Home Accident Prevention Strategy and was developed in consultation with the Southern Area Accident Prevention Liaison Group.

Between 2004-2008, 1,470 children under five years were admitted to a hospital in Northern Ireland as a result of a home accident, 226 of these in the SHSCT area. Further information on this project can be obtained from Nina Daly, Accident Prevention Officer, SHSCT Tel: 028 3834 4973 [Nina.daly@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:Nina.daly@southerntrust.hscni.net)

\*(Including day nurseries, community groups creches and playgroups involved in the extended schools programme)

**A Parent's Perspective:****"Bridge to Health" - Nutrition, Self esteem, Cookery and Physical activity**

Using Extended Schools' funding, Nazareth House Primary School Derry organised the "Bridge to Health" 10 week programme which opened up a door for my kids and me.

It helped me take the first steps towards helping my family eat better and take more exercise; overall it helped us improve our health and

well-being. The classes were a great source of encouragement and inspiration to all who took part. Friendships were built that have endured since the end of the programme. In fact we meet regularly for walks etc. The classes were professional, informative and good fun. This has enabled me to pass on positive information to my kids for

healthier growth and development. Overall, we feel energised and positive about food and we are now open to a lot more choices to help us maintain a balanced diet.

I really appreciate the chance I had to take part and would encourage any parent to get involved if the opportunity arose.



# Extended Schools Calendar of Key Dates

## NIESIS UPDATE

The Northern Ireland Extended Schools Information System (NIESIS) is now fully operational. If you have not already done so you need to login as soon as possible and enter your action plans.

Schools are reminded that the username and password provided by your ELB is for the administration account only. This will only allow you to create and manage users. Once you create users you can then login as an individual user and create, edit and submit action plans.

At the time of going to press hundreds of action plans had already been submitted to the system and the four Extended Schools' Project Boards were busy assessing and ratifying school plans.

The next stage of development for NIESIS will see the activity monitoring and optional financial tracking tools go live. These will become available to schools over the summer break so that up to date information on the progress of activities and services can be collated.

This system is a key tool to support schools in demonstrating the impact that this programme is having for children, young people, their families and communities across the province.

## ANNUAL REPORTS

A key element of demonstrating the impact of the Extended Schools' programme is the completion of the Annual Report.

The Department of Education requires that this report be returned to each ELB before funding can be released for the next year.

Schools are reminded that Annual Reports should have been submitted to WELB/SELB by 30 April 2009. To date some Reports are outstanding.

To submit the Annual Report please e-mail the monitoring form to your Extended Schools Team.

### Action Plan Deadline -

Friday 12 June 2009

### Cluster Plan Deadline -

Wednesday 30 September 2009



## SELB/WELB

### EXTENDED SCHOOLS TEAM

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*The Extended Schools programme in this area is supported by a joint team of WELB and SELB staff.*

*The WELB/SELB Extended Schools Team would like to thank all those whose contributions have made this newsletter possible.*

*If you have an article which you wish to be included in the next edition of the Extended Schools Newsletter please forward your article (no more than 200 words) and a photograph to [extended\\_schools@welbni.org](mailto:extended_schools@welbni.org) for consideration.*