

Extended Schools

schools, families, communities - working together

WELB/SELB Extended Schools Issue 6, January 2010

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Extended Schools Involving the Community

Presentation Primary School, Portadown has been working on the High Level Outcomes of Being Healthy; Enjoying, Learning and Achieving and Contributing Positively to Community and Society to deliver its Extended Schools' Gardening and Cookery Clubs.

A very successful Garden Sale was organised by our Primary 1 Class which raised over £300 for charity. The P1 children painted their pots and planted bulbs and seeds and then sold all their produce to our local community. Our Key Stage 2 Cookery Clubs used the produce grown in the Garden Club to make a variety of healthy snacks and served refreshments at the sale.

The Key Stage 2 children worked with the P1 children to total the prices of the purchases. Miss



Murphy P1 teacher stated that the preparation for this sale incorporated so many curricular areas and brought the

older children together with the P1 children. The whole project gave everyone a great boost to their confidence.



Irwins Bakery also donated bread which was used to make sandwiches at the sale. Irwins also donated bread for the Breakfast Club and for a successful European Day.

The Cookery Club followed recipes submitted from a variety of cultures.

A P7 pupil couldn't wait to try out the recipes on his family after each "fantastic" class.



'Making Early Reading Fun'

The Western Education and Library Board (WELB) have congratulated four parent helpers and a classroom assistant from Steelstown Primary School, Derry, at an awards evening held for the completion of 'Making Early Reading Fun', an accredited programme approved by Open College Network (OCN).

Mr Charlie McMonagle, Vice Principal and Extended Schools' Co-ordinator with the school identified pupils from Primary 1 and Primary 2 classes who would benefit from taking part in the programme.

'Making Early Reading Fun' ran for six weeks and was lead by the North West Regional College (NWRC). The courses involved parents working with

story sacks to explore literacy with their child in new exciting ways and attending awareness sessions on story modelling which explored different ways to plan and delivery story telling to capture their child's imagination and develop language skills.

Mrs Mary McLaughlin WELB

Extended Schools' Advisory Teacher, said: "the programme was a tremendous success for all involved. The intention is that this programme will be embedded within the school incorporating all year groups, with plans to establish and further develop this practice within the City's Shantallow community."



Gardening Programme

Railway Street Nursery School, Armagh, six week Extended Schools' Garden Programme got off to a great start in early February 2009 with a fine fresh morning. Dressed in their gardening gear and with their gardening paraphernalia, the children, their siblings, parents and grandparents alike gathered at the school to begin a gardening programme.

The programme was carried out under the joint leadership of Mrs Paud O'Kane, Chairperson of our Board of Governors, who is a keen gardener, Mrs Aisling Clerkin, Principal, and Mrs Lorraine Williamson, Nursery Assistant.

Over the six weeks, the drab and dilapidated garden was transformed into an exciting sensory garden where children can develop their sensory experiences, enjoy nature, grow their own food and learn about the environment.

This was an absolutely, brilliant programme



where great partnerships were made, people skills and knowledge were developed and a sense of belonging to the community was established. In fact, some of the children who helped create the garden and who have now moved on to the primary school return to visit and help maintain the garden with their parents.

One child returned from his primary school to dig up the carrots.

In addition to all of this, a beautiful sensory garden was developed and is now a central teaching and learning resource in the school life!

The Nursery School is so proud of the "team work creation" that was produced by the children and their extended families, the Board of Governors and the staff and would like to extend sincere thanks to all who were involved.

"Over the six weeks, our drab and dilapidated garden was transformed into an exciting sensory Garden"

Budding Artists

St Mary's Boys Primary school in Strabane held a unique art exhibition at the school in December, to showcase the products of their after-school Art Club, funded through the Extended Schools' Programme. The club provided opportunities for every child in the school to work with their parents to create a piece of artwork, which was then professionally framed and displayed at the special showcase event.

The exhibition was launched by celebrated local artist Ms Gloria Perry, who herself has exhibited work across the North West of Ireland. "The artwork on display is full of colour, energy and imagination

and all pupils should be very proud of themselves for all their hard work," she commented on the night.

The school Principal, Mrs Sandra O'Doherty, paid tribute to all the staff who helped organise the event, especially Mrs Curran, the Extended Schools co-ordinator and all the parents who supported the school in producing a fantastic exhibition. The children themselves also enjoyed being "exhibiting artists". Whilst little Oran, Year



2, commented that, "it was great fun!" a more philosophical Rory, Year 7, says that he has been "inspired" to develop his art skills and would like to see some more art and craft clubs in the school next year too.

Pupils give their wonderful art exhibition the "thumbs up!"

Reading Partnership

Through the Extended Schools' Programme Newtownhamilton Primary School decided to provide a service to enhance the reading of the children in the school who were working at an 'instructional level'. The aim was to try and motivate these children to read for enjoyment.

One teacher and two classroom assistants were trained as reading

partners over three weeks and through standardised tests six children were selected for the service which will be broken up into sets of ten week blocks.

At present the six children are worked with three days per week for fifteen minutes each day with running records being used throughout to track progress. Already teachers and parents have noticed a developing love

for reading in these six children and the schools overall target is that at the end of ten weeks the children's reading ages will have improved by approximately 3 months.



A Parent's Perspective: 'Sunflowers' in Bloom



The parents of pupils at Donemana Primary School, Strabane have been singing the praises of the Extended Schools Programme after their recent involvement in the Foundation Art club. The club, facilitated by a local artist, brought parents together with their Primary 1 and Primary 2 children, to study some famous paintings and have a go at reproducing them. The group produced an excellent array of 'Sunflowers' pieces, inspired by Van Gogh and some parents discovered talents they never knew they had!

One mum, Gillian, commented that it was very nice to be able to spend one-to-one time with her son at the artwork. Katie and Diane both enjoyed working with their children too, adding that they would look forward to more artwork activities based on the children's interests next time. Glenda really appreciated the chance to bring some of her younger children to the classes as well, as it meant that they got a chance to get used to the school surroundings.

Acting Principal, Mrs Gillian Hay has welcomed the opportunity to encourage parents to become more actively involved in the school and hopes to develop services to the wider school community even further, through the Extended Schools' Programme.

SELB Cluster Group Feature: 'Ready, Steady, Cook'

Thanks to funding from the Cluster Extended Schools' Programme the C.A.I.R.N.S. Cluster, which includes St Mary's Primary School, Stewartstown, Ballytrea Primary School, Coagh Primary School and Stewartstown Number 1 Primary School, has been able to offer an evening of cookery demonstrations for parents and the local community.

Mr Kevin Lowe, Stewartstown's local butcher and Mr Bob McDonald, chef from Deli on the Green, Dungannon, were asked to present ideas and tips to the community on how to cook a healthy family diet while sticking to a budget.

Mrs Patricia Kells, a grandparent and member of staff in St Mary's Primary School commented 'Tonight was an excellent and very worthwhile experience. I have learned how to cook many different dishes using chicken and pork that I would not have had the confidence to cook beforehand. I know what's for dinner tomorrow night!'

Questionnaires were completed at the end of the night and the evaluation proved that an enjoyable, informative and entertaining night was had by all.

Positive feedback was given by all the participants.

Due to the huge success of this activity, another night has been planned for March 2010. This time the presenters will be focusing on ideas for the Barbeque.



Fun Clubs

Through the Extended Schools' Programme St Mary's Primary School, Dunamore, Cookstown have provided the children with the opportunity to attend a wide range of Afterschools' Clubs like Art/Craft, Computer, Drama, Irish, Cookery, First Aid, Homework and Multi-Skills. These clubs have been well attended and have proven very popular with the children, staff and parents of St Mary's.



This year the school has reviewed its current Afterschools' clubs and have now offered the Foundation Stage children the opportunity to participate in a club. Since September 2009 the Primary Two children have taken part in a Foundation Stage Literacy/Numeracy Fun Club. The club runs on a Tuesday afternoon from 2.10 pm to 3.10 pm. Over the past five weeks the children have used the interactive

Whiteboard to take part in Literacy and Numeracy activities.

They have also made pancakes, designed Halloween Hands, drew Autumn pictures and now are currently investigating Autumn colours and writing poems about colours found in the Autumn.

The children are very enthusiastic about this club. All the children in Primary 2 attend the club. They are enjoying learning and working together in an area which is essentially fun and provides a great sense of achievement.



"The children are very enthusiastic about this club"

'Lunchtime is Pupil Time'

Through the Extended Schools' Programme there is a bumper package of activities on offer at Strabane High School at lunchtime these days, so there's little chance of boredom setting in! Extended Schools co-ordinator, Mr Ronnie Dale, is delighted that this is the case. He says that the lunchtime clubs are yielding very positive dividends, in terms of discipline and behaviour. He is confident that the opportunities provided for the pupils, to relax and engage in activities which they find

enjoyable, has been directly responsible for a significant reduction in problem behaviour and inattention, especially in afternoon classes.

Speaking to the pupils themselves, it is clear to see how much they appreciate the provision. Jade (Year 12), says she used to find the lunch break long and boring but now enjoys music and magazines in the 'chill' corner!

In the youth wing, a Year 9 pool competition rages, with twins William and Gary battling at one table and Lee and Kyle at another. They just about take time to report that it's 'class' to have these facilities available. Year 10 pupils, Simon



and Neeraj are in match mode too, at table tennis, which they say is 'far better than just hanging about'. There are also reading and TV areas and the busy club leader, Ann provides board games, footballs or bats and balls for indoor and outdoor use. Inside the school, an ICT club is fully subscribed and the needlecraft group is working away developing knitting and cross-stitch skills. There is certainly something to suit everyone!



"far better than just hanging about"

PROMOTION OF THE EXTENDED SCHOOLS' PROGRAMME

Publicity is important for the long term development of the Extended Schools' Programme. It enables your school to tell people who you are, what you are doing regarding Extended Schools activities and how pupils, parents and the wider community are benefiting.

As a school involved in the Extended Schools' Programme we would encourage you to inform the public of how you are using the funding.

Acknowledgement of the financial contribution from Extended Schools should be included in any brochures, leaflets, job/recruitment advertisements or any other publicity material produced by the school in connection with the Project. All schools are required to ensure that due prominence is given to the assistance received from Extended Schools on materials produced and distributions relation to the Project. The following logos should be used on all publicity material:

- School Logo
- Extended Schools Logo
- Board Logo

Publicity Tips

- Be clear about your publicity objectives
- Plan what you want to do
- Involve people
- Monitor the results



Acknowledge Extended Schools

The Extended Schools' Programme must be acknowledged - especially at events, launches and celebration events.

This can involve using the Extended Schools logo as follows:

- Ensure it is clearly visible in photos, plaques and other displays
- Inclusion in news releases and photo shoot invites

Inform your ELB Extended Schools' Co-ordinator about any events you are holding such as ceremonies, parties, anniversaries or visits by celebrities, politicians etc. The ELB may be able to send a representative or include the events in newsletters and other publicity materials.

The school should have information on their Extended Schools' Programme readily available for parents, external agencies and the wider community and should also take steps to raise the profile of their Extended Schools' Programme. Examples of this include:

- A dedicated page on the school **website**
- Inclusion in the school **newsletter**
- Providing an **information leaflet** for parents on the various activities/services provided
- Establishing a school **noticeboard** dedicated to the Extended Schools Programme
- Have copies of the **timetable** of extended school events
- Reference to the Extended Schools Programme in the school **prospectus**.

The Extended Schools' Programme logo, publicity guidelines and press release templates are available on www.niesis.org

A Parent's Perspective: Paediatric First Aid

The parents of St Brigid's Primary School, Drumilly, Newry have been adding to their skills by embarking on a new course this year.

Through the Extended Schools' Programme ten parents have signed up to complete a paediatric first aid course run in the school.

The facilitation was provided by the Southern Regional College and at the end of the course the parents are awarded a level 2 certificate which is a nationally recognised qualification. The course has been running over four weeks at night and the knowledge gained will enable them to develop an understanding of safe, ethical and effective first aid in the early years setting. This activity targets a number of high level outcomes but mainly that of living in safety.

The parents have welcomed the experience, Mr Martin Murphy said, "It is extremely enjoyable and informative". Mrs Eileen McCann commented, "It is a great skill to have and a brilliant resource for the

school to provide". This has been one of the most successful activities for the parents that the school has provided and as Mrs Elaine Quinn put it, "As a mother it is great to know what to do after you have finished panicking".



"As a mother it is great to know what to do after you have finished panicking"

A Pupil's Perspective: Badminton Club

The Magee family name is synonymous with badminton in the North-West, with members enjoying local, regional and national success across the generations.

Brothers Mervyn (Year 7) and Kyle (Year 4), pupils at Bready Jubilee PS, recently secured the All-Ireland Boys' Doubles title and are members of the Ulster squad.

But apart from the odd game now and again in PE, this lesser known sport generally took a

back seat to more popular football and cricket in the school. As Mervyn explains, "it's not a money sport and not televised, so it's not as popular."

But that has all changed this last term at Bready Jubilee Primary School because badminton is now on the 'menu' of after-school activities funded through the Extended Schools' Programme and uptake has been surprisingly high.

Pupils report that it's a great sport for keeping fit and they are really enjoying it, especially learning new rules and techniques. The Principal, Mrs Cole, also welcomes the opportunity to facilitate an activity not easily accessible locally.

Kyle loves seeing his friends enjoy badminton and says that many girls join in too! From January, it becomes even more of a family affair as mum, Claire and dad, Sam will be helping out with coaching badminton at the school. Mervyn says that his dad will, "get us doing fancy shots and show us some tricks."



"facilitate an activity not easily accessible locally"

Culture Club

The Culture Club in Loreto Grammar School, Omagh, was established to provide the students with access to a wide variety of activities relating to teen and popular culture as deemed relevant by the students. The type of activities offered in Culture Club range from sifting through music and celebrity magazines to spending an afternoon shopping 'til you drop!

The basic principle underpinning the Culture Club is that each student is given the opportunity to partake in typical teenage pursuits without the, sometimes heavy, burden of the costs connected with them. To date the students benefited from a wide exposure to teen culture at no expense to themselves and at little



expense to the Extended Schools' Programme.

The Culture Club programme of events for each term is made up of a selection of the following activities: DVD New Release reviewing, Magazine appraisal, Music Download Rating, Fashion and Shop reviewing, Cinema visits, Karaoke competitions, Gaming sessions and Food Outlet sampling. All the activities we engage were proposed by the students themselves and have been adapted to facilitate as wide a student base as possible. Each activity provided by Culture Club is designed to be both enjoyable yet appropriate to the everyday lives of the students.

Through a very enjoyable and relaxed environment the students are being offered an opportunity not only to engage in fun activities but to also develop their interpersonal skills. At present, Culture Club is attended by students from Years 8 to 14. This offers the students the chance to interact and form friendships which may not otherwise be forged.

Through reviewing their activities and by exposure to current media, the students are encouraged to develop their literacy skills and to become more independent thinkers. The students are charged with the task of forming their own opinions in order to report their findings back to the rest of



the student body. Culture Club members maintain the club notice board and upload their reviews to the Student Council Intranet on a weekly basis.

To date, Culture Club has been a big success with the students as they continue to flock back week after week for another session of fun filled activity.



*"I don't like staying after school, but Culture Club makes its worthwhile."
Aoife, Year 13*

"Culture club is great craic, the focus is all on fun!"

Chloe, Year 9

Extended Schools Art Club

In St Patrick's Primary School, Mullinahoe, Ardboe, forty pupils have participated in two types of art activity; water colour and oil painting through the Extended Schools' Programme.

The Art Co-ordinator's efforts has really imbued the children with a sense of pride in their local area, developed the pupils social and art skills and made art fun.

The inspiration for the pupils' work stemmed from a tour of the local area, around the Lough Shore.

Photographs were taken and discussed back at school. The children sketched and experimented with colours before completing their masterpieces.

The high quality work produced has strengthened their sense of achievement. The pupils have enjoyed this immensely, making new friends, developing new skills and producing a superb standard of work which is now proudly displayed in the school.

One of the high points for the children was an open evening organised to show case their efforts to their families and friends. A classroom was set out like a real art gallery and light refreshments were served.

The children enjoyed the opportunity, not only to show off their work, but also to discuss the process and journey to the final masterpiece!





Extended Schools Calendar of Key Dates

INSET DAYS

A series of INSET Days are planned during January/February 2010.

The theme for these days is Demonstrating Impact – Measuring Improvement.

The dates/venues are as follows –

SELB

Thursday 21 January 2010	Clounagh Centre, Portadown
Wednesday 27 January 2010	Dungannon Teachers' Centre
Tuesday 2 February 2010	AMMA Centre, Armagh

All sessions begin with 9.15 am registration and finish with lunch at 1.00 pm.

WELB

Monday 1 February 2010	South West Teachers, Centre, Enniskillen
Friday 5 February 2010	Technology Education Centre, Omagh
Tuesday 9 February 2010	Limavady Council Offices
Monday 22 February 2010	North West Teachers' Centre, Derry
Tuesday 23 February 2010	Strabane Teachers' Centre
Wednesday 24 February 2010	North West Teachers' Centre, Derry
Thursday 25 February 2010	Castlederg High School
Friday 26 February 2010	North West Teachers' Centre, Derry

The WELB/SELB Extended Schools' Team would like to extend a happy and peaceful New Year to you, staff, pupils and the community.



WELB/SELB EXTENDED SCHOOLS' TEAM

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 for consideration.

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