



Claire Smith & Sharon Ademo from Aston Village ETNS with the Minister for Disability, Equality, Mental Health and Older People, Kathleen Lynch TD, at the Yellow Flag Awards

## TEACHER NEWS

JUNE  
2011

Welcome to the last newsletter of the year. It's hard to believe that 2010 – 2011 has come to an end and no doubt schools are busy organising sports days and school tours. It's been a great year for the overall organisation what with the formation of the Patronage Forum and the official recognition of Educate Together as a second-level patron. We're also delighted to be offering three summer courses this year:

- An Introduction to Educate Together and the Learn Together curriculum (online)
- Making a Difference: Ethics and the Environment and Equality and Justice (online)
- Addressing Homophobia in the Primary School (face-to-face)

Teachers from a wide variety of Educate Together schools have been involved in the design of all three and the focus is most firmly on the practical. Details can be found further on in the newsletter.

Wishing you all a long, lazy, sun-drenched summer.

Fionnuala Ward  
Primary Education Officer



### Yellow Flag Award for Aston Village Educate Together

Congratulations to pupils and staff of Aston Village on their recent award of a Yellow Flag for promoting interculturalism and diversity in their school. John Kelleher, the school principal, wrote about the whole endeavour in our last edition of Teacher News and it's clear that a huge amount of work and planning went into the effort. These things never happen on their own so a genuine well done to all involved!

#### The Yellow Flag Programme

The Yellow Flag programme is open to both primary and second-level schools and is about to enter the third phase of its development and expansion. Castaheany Educate Together NS was involved in the initial stage and was awarded a Yellow Flag in 2010. The programme works with students, staff, management, parents and wider community groups in the promotion of diversity and equality.

#### New Applications for Yellow Flag

The Irish Traveller Movement is now seeking applications from schools that are interested in running the Yellow Flag Intercultural Programme in September 2011. Please note, initial interest should be indicated by June 30th. The number of schools selected is subject to funding. Please contact Paula Madden at [yellowflagprogramme@gmail.com](mailto:yellowflagprogramme@gmail.com).

### Date for your Diary: Educate Together Day 2011

On October 22nd of last year, 30 Educate Together schools raised over €15,000 for Educate Together Day. The money raised has been allocated for recruitment of new boards of management for our schools. This year, **Educate Together Day 2011** will take place on **October 28th**. We'll be sending on more details soon - watch this space! For further information contact Masina Johnston at [masina.johnston@educatetogether.ie](mailto:masina.johnston@educatetogether.ie) or 087 976 6651.

# Art Display for Claregalway ETNS



Every spring Claregalway, a small village north of Galway City, hosts a drama festival. Due to the fact that Claregalway has an award-winning drama group and that this festival occurs in the lead-up to the Annual Amateur Drama Finals in Athlone, the festival has become quite a prestigious affair.

It is a time of excitement and pride amongst the local community, which plays host to both performers and audiences from all over the country for the event. The festival is not held in a historic theatre with plush velvet curtains, but rather in our beautifully transformed, local community hall. This is the same hall where we play spikeball every week and PE all year round. While the organisers transform the hall with seats, lighting, sound equipment etc., it is the responsibility of the local schools to provide the transformation from bare breeze-block walls to visually-appealing, exhibition style displays.

Here in Claregalway we are slightly unusual in that we are a rural Educate Together school. There is a large primary school in the village and several others in the hinterland. Like all Educate Together schools, a dedicated band of parents persevered and opened the doors of our school on the fringe of the village in September 2005. It has taken a while for us to establish our position within the community and it has been a slow and frustrating journey at times. However, we really knew that we were 'in' when we were invited to help in the decoration of the hall for the drama festival in 2009. Did I mention just how important this drama festival is in the local community?!

Only three schools were involved this year so we were very proud of ourselves. That pride was even more keenly felt when, after Opening Night, Terri, our principal, reported that OUR work was displayed at the entrance to the hall. So all those people from the village, the county and the country came in the door and were met straight away with the artwork of Claregalway Educate Together N.S.

The students are still beaming! Terri, not biased at all, said that it was like walking into an art gallery with the Junior and Senior Infants work displayed on one side and the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class work displayed on the other. The work of our other two classes were also in a prominent position inside the hall.

Patrick Kavanagh mentioned that "Gods make their own importance" and when a small Educate Together school that is only in its 6<sup>th</sup> year has made a mark on the local community and is now known and recognised as being part of that community, well that's an extremely important occasion for us.

**Hilary Waide, Claregalway ETNS**

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations and a fond farewell to Helen from Limerick School Project, Gerard from Swords Educate Together and Réamonn from Gaelscoil an Ghoirt Álainn on their upcoming retirement. Wishing you all the best for the future!

# Educate Together Summer Courses

Educate Together is running three summer courses this year. All three courses have been approved by the Dept. of Education for three EPV days in school year 2011-12.

- **Addressing Homophobia in the Primary School**  
**Face-to-Face: Dublin**
- **Making a Difference: Ethics and the Environment; Equality and Justice: Online**
- **An Introduction to Educate Together and the Learn Together curriculum: Online**

In association with *BelongTo Youth Services* and the INTO, a face-to-face course will be delivered in Dublin on *Addressing Homophobia in the Primary School*. The course will consider how schools can better support children who identify as LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) or may do so in the future, children whose parents or family members are LGBT and LGBT staff members. This course will take place at the INTO Learning Centre, 38 Parnell Square, Dublin 1 from Monday July 4 to Friday July 8 from 9.30 am to 2 pm each day.

A new online course, involving a closer examination of the Ethics and the Environment and the Equality and Justice strands entitled *Making a Difference* will also be available as will last year's online course, *An Introduction to Educate Together and the Learn Together Curriculum*. Both of these online courses are available to take between July 1 and August 26.

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## Tullamore ETNS Achieves Fairtrade School Status

Tullamore celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight this year with its newly recognised status as a Fairtrade School. School Principal Cathy Lyons said, "Fairtrade is a core part of Educate Together's Ethical Education Curriculum but in order to become a Fairtrade School we had to meet five simple goals that included using only Fairtrade tea and coffee throughout the school and running a Fairtrade event."

The five goals required to become a Fairtrade School are:

- Lessons about Fairtrade in the classroom
- Showing the Fair Comment Video in your school
- Using only Fairtrade tea and coffee in the staff room
- Converting some products from the school shop or vending machine (if you have one) to Fairtrade
- Organising a Fairtrade promotion during Fairtrade Fortnight

Educate Together is the first school in Tullamore to officially receive the title of Fairtrade School but it is hoped that other schools will follow suit. At least one national school and one second-level school is required for Tullamore to be designated a Fairtrade Town. William Hayes of the Tullamore Fairtrade Town Committee said, "We are very close to meeting all the criteria to become a Fairtrade Town. We have sufficient numbers of coffee shops, restaurants and other businesses using and selling Fairtrade goods but the last piece of the puzzle is schools."

Throughout Ireland the Fairtrade movement is prospering, as it moves beyond the well-known tea and coffee sectors into fruit, clothing, gifts and even fairly-mined gold. Contrary to what might be expected during the recession, Fairtrade sales have continued to grow in Ireland. In 2010 consumer spending on Fairtrade Certified products grew by an impressive 17%, from €118 million in 2009 to €138 million in 2010. Ireland now has one of the highest per capita spends on Fairtrade Certified products in the world.



Rebecca Quigley, Tullamore ETNS

## Vacancies

Educate Together is running a project in partnership with [Plan Ireland](#) to develop Lesson Plans on the topics of poverty, homelessness, gender and identity. We are seeking a part-time co-ordinator for this project, as well as teachers to develop the resources. All positions will be paid. Lesson plans will be developed over the summer and piloted in schools in September and October.

If you are interested in working on this project, please visit the vacancies section of the Educate Together website, (Research Development Project), for job descriptions and details.

## For your calendar

The [Chester Beatty Library](#) is organising a free workshop for teachers on the theme of Learning through Storytelling, Music and Art. The workshop, pencilled in for Sep 8<sup>th</sup> from 4.00 – 6.00, will be facilitated by experienced, international storytellers and musicians. Details and confirmation of date and time will be sent out in September.



## Flag Display in Limerick School Project

We have a flags wall at the top of the main corridor in our school. It shows the nationalities within the Limerick School Project community. It gets updated every year.

It gives a nice multi-cultural feel, as well as making children more aware of the flags of various countries!

Collette Neville, Limerick School Project