



Welcome back after the summer break. The school year has started in earnest, with our working groups holding a very productive meeting in September and sharing their progress on various projects. We also report on Professor John Portelli's Curriculum of Life workshop at DCU on 15 October. Work has begun on our applications to the DES for patronage of new second-level schools in Lusk, Drogheda, Greystones and Dublin 15, with events being planned by second-level start-up groups to gather support in their areas. These are exciting times in the Educate Together second-level project as we move closer to the reality of the first second-level Educate Together schools.

Ann Ryan,
Second-level Education Officer



Professor John Portelli's workshop on the Curriculum of Life



Professor John Portelli, Co-director of the Centre for Leadership and Diversity, University of Toronto

Professor John Portelli from the University of Toronto presented on the *Curriculum of Life* on Sat 15 October at Dublin City University.

This workshop was organised by Educate Together in partnership with the School of Education Studies, DCU. Participants included undergraduate students, teachers and educationalists who were all interested in finding out more on Professor Portelli's work on the *Curriculum of Life*.

Professor Portelli's workshop was lively, informative and thought-provoking, and provided participants with a fascinating insight into the Curriculum of Life concept.

We would like to thank staff at DCU's School of Education Studies for hosting this event, and would especially like to thank Professor Portelli for delivering such an interesting and enjoyable workshop presentation

Download Professor Portelli's presentation [here](#)

For a taster video of Professor Portelli's workshop, click [here](#)

Second-level Start-up Groups

New to our website

We have created a brand new webpage for the second-level start-up groups in Lusk, North Co Dublin, Drogheda, Co Louth, Greystones Co Wicklow and Dublin 15.

Applications for patronage for the new second-level schools in these areas will be sent to the DES in Jan 2012. To support the campaign in your local area, and to register your interest, click [here](#).

In the News..

Junior Cert subjects

Click [here](#) to read an article in the Independent on the Minister's recent decision not to cap Junior Cert exam subjects.

Upcoming meetings

Lusk ET2LL - public meeting planned for **Thurs 17 November**, venue tbc

Cork/Midleton 2nd level group - public meeting **Tues 22 Nov**, venue tbc

Greystones/North Wicklow - public meeting **Wed 7 Dec**, venue tbc.

Working Groups Meeting Sat 24 September

Our working groups met on Sat 24 September at Rush & Lusk ETNS. Hosted by school Principal Marie Moreau, and John McKenna of the Lusk second-level start-up group, the meeting was well-attended by both working group members and second-level start-up group representatives.

Emma Creighton of TFE Research and Design at NCAD provided us with a fascinating presentation, *Designing for 21st Century Learning*, which included valuable insights from second-level students on what they want for school building design. As well as presentations from working groups, the meeting also included workshops to explore values, facilitated by Francesca Lorenzi of DCU, and Jarlath Munnely of Educate Together. Data from these values workshops form part of ongoing research being undertaken by the **Ethical Curriculum** working group and will inform curriculum development, planning and ethos work supporting Educate Together second-level schools.



Next Second-level Camp

Following the success of our first second-level camp, held during the Easter holidays earlier this year, we had planned a Halloween camp for the October mid-term break. Our focus was to be on students and teachers planning themes and related activities together, using the Beane/Broadhagen approach to integrating curriculum, (click [here](#) for more info). Students would select one or more of their chosen activities to develop further during the camp programme.

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone the camp this time round, but will be rescheduling to a date in early 2012. The second-level camp will be open to all young people who are currently in Junior Cycle at second-level.

If you know any teenagers who might be interested in taking part in future camps, please email: secondlevel@educatetogether.ie

We are also interested in recruiting volunteer teachers to facilitate and plan curriculum activities for our second-level camps. If you are interested in getting involved, please email secondlevel@educatetogether.ie.