

ACTIVATE

No. 50 March 2012

The Newsletter of the Association of CSPE Teachers (ACT)

Supporting Citizenship Education in Ireland

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www.cspeteachers.ie



Maurice Manning addresses our Annual Conference

Notice of EGM

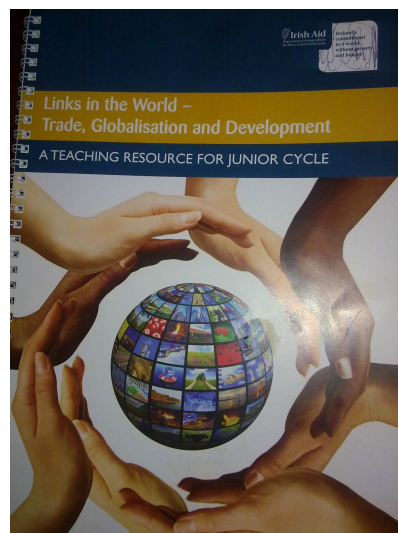
The Association will hold an EGM to adopt an updated Constitution on Mon June 11th at 3.30 pm in the Blackrock Education Centre. This meeting will also review the CSPE exam paper that students are sitting earlier that afternoon.

Important Dates

This year's deadline for completion of CSPE project RAPs and CWABs is Fri 27 April. The CSPE Exam will take place on Mon 11th June at 1.30 pm.

New Resource for CSPE

mLinks in the World – Trade, Globalisation and Development – a Teaching Resource for Junior Cycle is a new resource designed for CSPE. It is produced by Irish Aid with the support of the ASTI and the Global Campaign for Education. Writers are Maura Carey and Máire Ní Chléirigh, with the assistance of Conor Harrison. Among the topics covered are fair trade, the Millennium Development Goals and inequality. There is a variety of exercises, exam questions and guidelines for Acton Projects. The ASTI has already sent several copies to its school stewards.



Inservice

Remaining inservice: Wed, 21st March 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm Clare Education Centre; Thurs, 22nd March 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm Mayo Education Centre. Check with Education Centre before travelling.

Membership matters

Memberships for 2011/2012 are now overdue if not already paid. Send €20 to Brendan O'Regan, Ticknock Lane, Arklow, Co. Wicklow. Renewal form enclosed if member not paid up. Check envelope label for status.

News

Eco-Unesco Activities

Brand New! Green Teen Youth Club (Age: 15-18) Weekly (Tuesdays) 17:00 - 19:00@ the Greenhouse

Learn about the environment and issues affecting the planet. Take action and affect real change whilst meeting new people in a friendly, laid-back atmosphere.

http://ecounesco.ie/eco-dev/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=419&Itemid=143

Peer Education Programme (Age: 14-18) Weekly (Thurs) 17:00 - 19:00 @ the Greenhouse

Join us in learning about sustainable development, the environment and global justice through interactive workshops and outdoor excursions.

http://ecounesco.ie/eco-dev/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=171:youth-for-sustainable-development&catid=66&Itemid=145

Environmental Workshops (Age: 5-18)

ECO-UNESCO provides fun and interactive workshops on a wide range of environmental and sustainable development topics, tailored for young people. The workshops support and complement school curriculum.

Peer Education and Sustainability Training: 22 Mar (Tue) 10:00 - 16:00 @ the Greenhouse

This training is for youth workers committed to running a Peer Education Programme with young people that explores the theme of sustainability.

http://ecounesco.ie/eco-dev/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=208&Itemid=2

Concern Writing Competition

The 2012 Concern Creative Writing Competition: The brief is as follows – “This year we look to the future...the year is 2050 and the population of the world has surpassed 10 billion people. You have been asked to write a 1,000 word chapter for the 2050 State of the Developing World Report. What will you write about?” The options are endless, but if you need suggestions download the flyer and rules of entry: <http://www.concern.net/get-involved/schools/concern-writing-competition> Competition Categories include Junior: ages 13 to 15 and Senior: ages 16 to 18. Prizes in each category: First place - netbook computer, Second place: e-reader, Third place: MP3 player. Winning and selected entries will be included in the Creative Writing Competition book published by Liffey Press.

Amnesty Survey

Amnesty International in Ireland is interested in hearing from teachers about how they can support teachers in using human rights education in their classrooms.

They would be very grateful to teachers who complete an online survey

(<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/96FWWCP>) and forward the link on to colleagues and friends.

All completed surveys will be entered in a draw for a €50 voucher for Easons.

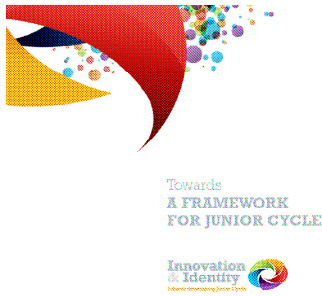
CSPE on Boards.ie

Every now and then CSPE related issues turn up on boards.ie, a very active discussion forum.

Search “boards cspe” (no commas) for a flavour. Sometimes it’s students looking for advice - e.g.

<http://www.boards.ie/vbulletin/showthread.php?t=2056535606>

Junior Cycle Reform



Towards a Framework for Junior Cycle (NCCA)

The NCCA document "**Towards a Framework for Junior Cycle**" is a must read for those wondering about the future of CSPE. The document includes 24 "Statements of Learning" (see page 15) including the following that are relevant to CSPE:

The full report can be accessed here:

<http://ncca.ie/framework/doc/NCCA-Junior-Cycle.pdf>

"The student

- communicates effectively using a variety of means in a range of context ...
- values what it means to be an active citizen, with rights and responsibilities in local and wider contexts ...
- learns how to think and act sustainably understands the distribution of social, economic, and environmental phenomena ...
- appreciates and respects how diverse values, beliefs and traditions have contributed to the communities and culture in which they live"

Other learning statements could have application to CSPE:

"The student

- creates, appreciates and critically interprets texts (including written, oral, visual and other texts)
- describes, illustrates, interprets, predicts and explains patterns and relationships
- improves their observation, inquiry, and critical-thinking skills
- develops an understanding of the natural world
- understands the distribution of social, economic, and environmental phenomena
- values local and national heritage and recognises the relevance of the past to current national and
- international issues and events
- uses appropriate technologies in meeting a design challenge
- brings an idea from conception to realisation
- uses ICT effectively and ethically in learning and in life
- takes action to safeguard and promote their well-being and that of others
- develops moral, ethical and responsible decision making and a sense of personal values

CSPE is listed as a full subject in the new framework, and among the "Potential Short Courses" are listed :

- Development Education
- Sustainable Living and Resource Management.

New Resources



Pictured on left are three new CSPE Resources given out at recent inservice workshops. *Take 10* is a resource on using drama methodologies in teaching CSPE, and is written by Valerie Lewis. *Spotlight on Stereotyping* links equality and the CSPE course concepts and is produced by PDST and the Equality Authority. *Don't Close Your Eyes to Slavery* is a resource that takes its cue from Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms."

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New Website

A new website on **Sustainable Development** Indicators has been developed by Comhar Sustainable Development Council (SDC). It is available at Comhar's website www.comharsdc.ie or at www.comharsustainableindicators.ie. This new website enables people to see how Ireland is performing in relation to sustainable development. It features up-to-date information and graphs on 20 headline indicators which inform us about progress on sustainable development challenges including climate change and clean energy, sustainable travel, economic prosperity, sustainable consumption and production, conservation and management of natural resources, public health, sustainable communities, land use and global poverty. The Sustainable Development Indicators website is an excellent and useful tool for second level educators and students, including in relation to geography, environmental topics, society and social issues, health, citizenship, business studies, and debating. It is an invaluable resource for use as a teaching reference and study aid. It provides easy access to a wide variety of statistics and an examination of progress over time and is extremely useful in ensuring facts are current and relevant for pupils. It has particular relevance for geography and CSPE. Geography students can explore a range of graphs showing changes in land use, carbon emissions and natural resources over time. For CSPE students, graphs showing changes in public health, global poverty and sustainable consumption and production over time demonstrate global and national trends and allow students to make links between individual behaviour and social and environmental consequences.

Activate is published once per school term by the Association of CSPE Teachers—supporting citizenship education in Ireland. Articles and letters for publication should be sent to the editor, Brendan O'Regan, Arklow CBS, Co. Wicklow, or emailed to act@esatclear.ie