

Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education



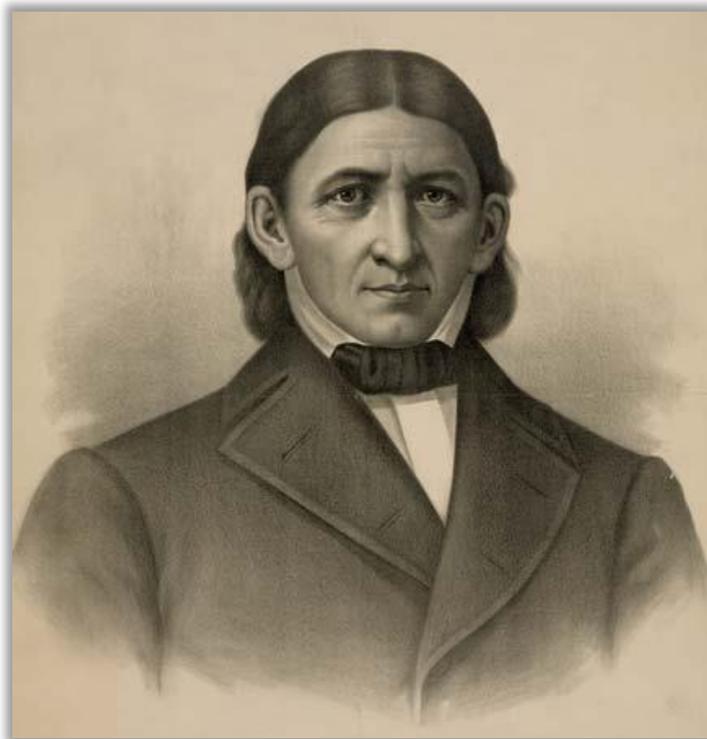
First Year BEd students - September 2017

Machnamh – Reflections

November– Mí na Samhna, 2017

Mission Statement of the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education

Guided by the philosophy of Friedrich Froebel and the principles and values of Maynooth University, our mission is to prepare and inspire caring educators in their pursuit of excellence in teaching, learning and research towards the holistic education of every child in a changing Ireland.



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Preface to *Machnamh*

Is mór an phribléid dom fáilte mhór a chur roimh an nuachtlitir nua seo, *Machnamh*. Tá obair fíor-spéisiúil ar siúl ag muintir Roinn Froebel agus is deas an rud é taifead agus bolscaireacht a dhéanamh ar an obair sin.

I would like to welcome you all to *Machnamh*, the first edition of our Departmental Newsletter. The core purpose of *Machnamh* is to document and archive the breadth of work engaged in by our Department. We hope it will serve also as a mechanism for sharing information with all staff and student but most importantly, *Machnamh* celebrates the achievements of our community across a diverse range of activities within and beyond the Department.

The Froebel Department opened its doors for the first time on the Maynooth University campus on 1 September 2013. The Department is now securely embedded within a broad, dynamic and diverse environment. Campus life brings a multiplicity of enriching opportunities which celebrate diversity, welcome creativity and cherish inclusivity. Such values create a fertile culture within which Froebel staff and students flourish through relationships which have arisen from our extensive involvement in various committees, clubs and societies across departments, faculties and disciplines within the university community. The Froebel community also engages with a vibrant network of partnerships with schools, external societies and educational organisations beyond the university campus, nationally and internationally. Furthermore, Froebel staff and students continue to preserve cherished traditions which signify the very special spirit and ethos of the department drawing on experiences and practices from our heritage and underpinned by our Froebel philosophy. Various events continue to be organised in this vein. Thus, I sincerely hope our *Machnamh* Newsletter captures the joy and fulfilment that we experience from all dimensions of the privileged work we do and that you will relish reading about it.

I would like to take the opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all my colleagues, who worked hard to collect and collate the material for this edition. Additionally, I would also like to thank all the colleagues and students who have contributed to the first edition of this special magazine with their texts and photos. In addition, I should thank the students who willingly responded to our call to contribute to this publication.

Marie Mc Loughlin
Head of Department

Froebel Family Reunion

On 28th August, before the students returned to university to start the new semester, there was a reunion in the School of Education. This brought together staff from Froebel College, Blackrock and those who had moved from there to the Maynooth campus, as well as those who have since joined us. The Froebel College staff were shown around the new home of the Froebel family and were well pleased and relieved to see that the Froebelian message is still being spread, albeit from a different venue.

A photograph with all those present on the day was taken to record the auspicious day.



Present are, Phil Lynch, Laura Thornton, Triona Stokes, Deirdre Ní Mhurchú, Máire Nic an Bháird, Fiona Nic Fhionnlaoich, Annette Kearns, Niamh Fortune, Deirdre Forde, Patricia Kennon, Pete Korta, Frank Brady, Gabriel Simpson, Ruth Forrest, Gearard Ó Floinn, Mary **O' Brien**, Éilis Hurley, Tony Sweeney, Katherine Lally, Eileen Clear, Patsy Stafford, Séamie Ó Néill, Sue Hosey, Marie Mc Loughlin, Bernadette Wrynn, Brian Tubbert, Sr Darina Hosey and Sr Veronica Mc Shane.

Workshops, Seminars and other CPD

Culture Night September 2017

In conversation with Dr. Triona Stokes, Peter Hussey, newly-appointed Artist in Residence, discussed the life-changing work of theatre-making, in a talk titled, '**Generating Happiness: How theatre-making in schools can develop positive mental health**'. The artist is shared between the Department of Education and the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education in a joint venture with Kildare Arts Services under the Arts Council funded initiative with artists and students of Initial Teacher Education. The talk was well attended by students and staff across the departments of the School of Education building.



Happy people! Peter Hussey, Dr Triona Stokes and students.

NEARI News

On Saturday, 16th September, a group of staff and past-students met at the NEARI conference in UCD, to discuss and present papers on Action Research in Education, with a particular focus on Validity in this genre of research.

The feedback, particularly with regard to the high standard of the student presentations, was very positive. We look forward to them returning soon, hopefully, to continue their **studies at Master's Level...**



Marion O' Connor, Mark Gallagher, Caitriona Ní Chléirigh, Shonagh Lynch, Séamie Ó Néill, Dr Bernadette Wrynn and Aoife Titley at NEARI

Froebelgarten/ Froebel Garden

During the summer months, the Froebelgarten (Froebel Garden) was installed on the roof/balcony of the School of Education, outside the Early Childhood Room. Those involved in planting the sensory bed (as below) are Rebecca Boyle, Phil Lynch, Brian Tubbert, Patsy Stafford, **Laura Thornton and Laura's niece, Lily.**



Since then, it has developed weekly. Students plant and reap the benefits.



Biodiversity Talk for Y3 students



Under the auspices of the MU Green Campus (executive assistant, Dorena Bishop) initiative, Brian Tubbert approached Jim Carolan of the Biology Department and one of **the people involved in setting up “Pollinators’ Patches” around the campus with a view to involving our B. Ed. Y3 students.** It was agreed that, in the 2nd Semester of the Mathematical & Scientific Enquiry (MSE) module, these students in groups of 6 would monitor, record and identify species observed in 6 habitats around the campus.

When confirmation of identity is secured, the information will be uploaded to the National Biodiversity Data Centre website as part of a national plan. The introductory session and tour of habitats, facilitated by Jim Carolan and with Dorena Bishop (Green Campus) and Gail Maher (Biology Dept.) in attendance, took place on Sept. 11th. Brian Tubbert and Patsy Stafford, Froebel lecturers in MSE, attended.

More **about this on page 38....**

Staff News

Retirement of Therese Hegarty

In the beginning of September, Therese Hegarty retired from her full-time lecturing position in the Froebel Department. During her time in both the Blackrock campus and recently, in Maynooth University, Therese drew on her skills as an educator, as a psychotherapist and as a creative thinker, to challenge the students and staff to see the world and its people from a different viewpoint. Therese continues to give occasional lectures on Mondays, so her positive energy lingers...



Therese's last lecture before "semi-retirement"

Léachtóir nua – Oisín Ó Doinn

I Mí Lúnasa, chuir Roinn Froebel fáilte roimh Oisín Ó Doinn mar bhall den fhoireann. Tá sé ag múineadh gnéithe éagsúla de mhúineadh agus d'fhoghlaim na Gaeilge.

Seo cuid dá scéal....



Chríochnaigh Oisín Ó Doinn a chéim BA sa ghnó agus sa Ghaeilge le hOllscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath sa bhliain 2011. Bronnadh dámhachtain Fulbright air i ndiaidh sin is chuaigh sé ag teagasc na Gaeilge in Ollscoil St. Thomas, in Minnesota ó 2011-2012. Ar theacht ar ais dó go hÉirinn in 2012, thosaigh sé máistreacht i Scríobh agus Cumarsáid na Gaeilge le Coláiste Ollscoile Bhaile Átha Cliath. Chríochnaigh sé a mháistreacht in 2013. Faoi láthair, tá sé ag tabhairt faoi PhD a dhéanamh san oideolaíocht agus sa teicneolaíocht lena *alma mater*.

Seo cuid den agallamh a rinne Síofra Ní Chlochartaigh (Bliain 4) le Oisín le déanaí.

1. Cad as tú?

Is as Tuaisceart Bhaile Átha Cliath dom.

2. Céard iad na suimeanna atá agat?

Tá an-suim agam i gcúrsaí teicneolaíochta. I 2011, chruthaigh mé seaicéad teicneolaíochta inchaite do chomharthóirí dóiteáin. Chomh maith leis sin tá mé ag obair le Duolingo ar chúrsa Gaeilge. Fuaireamar Gradam an Uachtaráin anuraidh dó agus aitheantas mar gheall gurb é an cúrsa Gaeilge is mó riamh.

3. An bhfuil aon chaithimh aimsire agat?

Rothaíocht, garraíodóireacht agus cócaireacht.

4. Céard a cheapainn tú faoi Ollscoil Mhá Nuad go dtí seo?

Is breá liom é. Is breá liom an t-atmaisféar agus tá na mic léinn agus an t-ionad oibre ar fheabhas. Tá na háiseanna is fearr a chonaic mé riamh in ionad oideachais anseo freisin.

5. An gceapann tú gur cheart go mbeadh cúrsa B.Oid as Gaeilge ar fáil?

Ceapaim go bhfuil sé riachtanach mar gheall ar fhás agus fhorbairt na nGaelscoileanna agus scoileanna Gaeltachta ionas go mbeadh seirbhís chothrom acu. Sheasfadh sé go mór do na múinteoirí chomh maith.

6. An bhfuil aon rud a chuireann eagla ort?

A bheith bodhair.

How fast the years **fly....!**

At the recent Graduation Ceremony in Maynooth University, Annette Kearns, who lectures on the Early Childhood course in the Froebel Department, was proud to be there to witness one of the children whom she had taught many years ago in an Early Childhood setting, graduating from Maynooth. Below is Annette with her student, Susan Mc Grady, who went on to study under the guidance of Annette on the BA in Early Childhood Studies.

It goes to show the impact of good teaching in the early stages....!



Death of Veronica Cullen

As mentioned in the Welcome page, the Froebel Department lost a valued member and friend in June. Her close friend, Katherine Lally, our Visual Arts lecturer, has written this tribute to Veronica.



Veronica Cullen 1961-2017

Veronica Cullen joined the Froebel staff as a School Placement supervisor in 2007. She had a genuine **interest in education, and was committed to the development of teachers of quality.** Veronica's love of the Irish language contributed to the support and direction of so many, and she was greatly appreciated by the students she served. Her work ethic and sincere nature was highly valued also by her colleagues in the Froebel Department of Maynooth University. It is hard to believe that Veronica was already undergoing severe treatment when this photograph was taken in April 2017. Veronica lost her battle in June this year, and is sadly missed by her husband, her five children and her family and loved ones. She was a dear and beautiful friend who shall never be forgotten.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.

Research Visits to and from the Froebel Department

Comhdháil Idirnáisiúnta



Bhí comhdháil idirnáisiúnta ar siúl in Ollscoil Shéarlais i bPrág, i mí Mheán Fómhair 2017. ‘Ar an Imeall i Lár an Domhain: An Tairseachúlacht i Litríocht agus i gCultúr na hÉireann agus na hEorpa’ téama na comhdhála. Thug an Dr Máire Nic an Bhaird ó Roinn Froebel páipéar ar Dhúbhghlas de hÍde: ‘Scríbhneoirí ar deoraíocht: Dúbhghlas de hÍde sna Stáit 1905-06’. Tá slua ón gcomhdháil le feiceáil sa ghrianghraf seo agus iad ar a mbealach chuig fáiltiú i dTeach an Ambasadóra. Dúradh ag clabhsúr na comhdhála gur bh í seo an chomhdháil ba mhó riamh a eagraíodh trí Ghaeilge taobh amuigh d’Éirinn.



Digital Learning in Europe

Séamie Ó Néill recently travelled to Odense in Denmark as part of the Erasmus+ project, Digital Learning in Europe. This Erasmus+ funded project aims to support the development, transfer and implementation of innovative ICT usage in primary schools, including national and transnational cooperation, peer-learning and the exchange of experience.



The project's thirteen partners are drawn from Denmark, Finland, Ireland and Italy, and consist of 10 primary schools and 3 universities. The Irish schools are St.Mark's SNS in Tallaght, Sacred Heart SNS in Killinarden and Lissivigeen National School in Killarney. Other Froebel Department staff members involved in the project include Tony Sweeney and Marie McLoughlin, along with Keith Young from the Department of Education.

Association for Teacher Education in Europe – the Dubrovnik Conference



The annual Association for Teacher Education in Europe (ATEE) Conference was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia between 23 and 25 October 2017. The conference theme was 'Changing perspectives and approaches in contemporary teaching'. Patsy Stafford and Eddie Costello co-presented on their project entitled 'Facilitating the development of prospective primary school teachers' understanding of the concept of ratio through discussion and everyday life contexts'.

Tony and Technological Adventures



As part of Science Week activities in Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, Tony Sweeney presented a workshop to Year 3 BEd (PE Specialism) students and invited local teachers from the Limerick area on Technology Adventures Outdoors. The session also featured a session exploring Maths and Science in Primary PE presented by Dr Rosemarie Martin. Students were **very actively engaged throughout the evening's presentation and activities!**

Drama in Norway!



N. A Theatre Studies students in Northwestern University of Applied Sciences

Receipt of the staff mobility award facilitates an academic staff member to visit another educational institution amongst universities connected through established Erasmus exchange programmes. The purpose of a staff mobility visit is the exchange of practice and ideas in an academic area. During international week, 22-27 October 2017 recipient Dr Triona Stokes shared practice in drama education and participatory research methods in Bergen, Norway. The Western University of Applied Sciences scheduled three inputs during international week with three cohorts of staff and students. A seminar workshop was held initially, which investigated the use of participatory research methods exploring play in school-based settings. This was followed by a half-day workshop using popular music as a stimulus for a process-based approach to create school-based performance. The participants were predominantly BA Applied Theatre students with a small number of staff members. Finally, a play research network within the university composed of staff and students were the participant group of a seminar which investigated the use of participatory research methods with young children within the institutional setting of school.

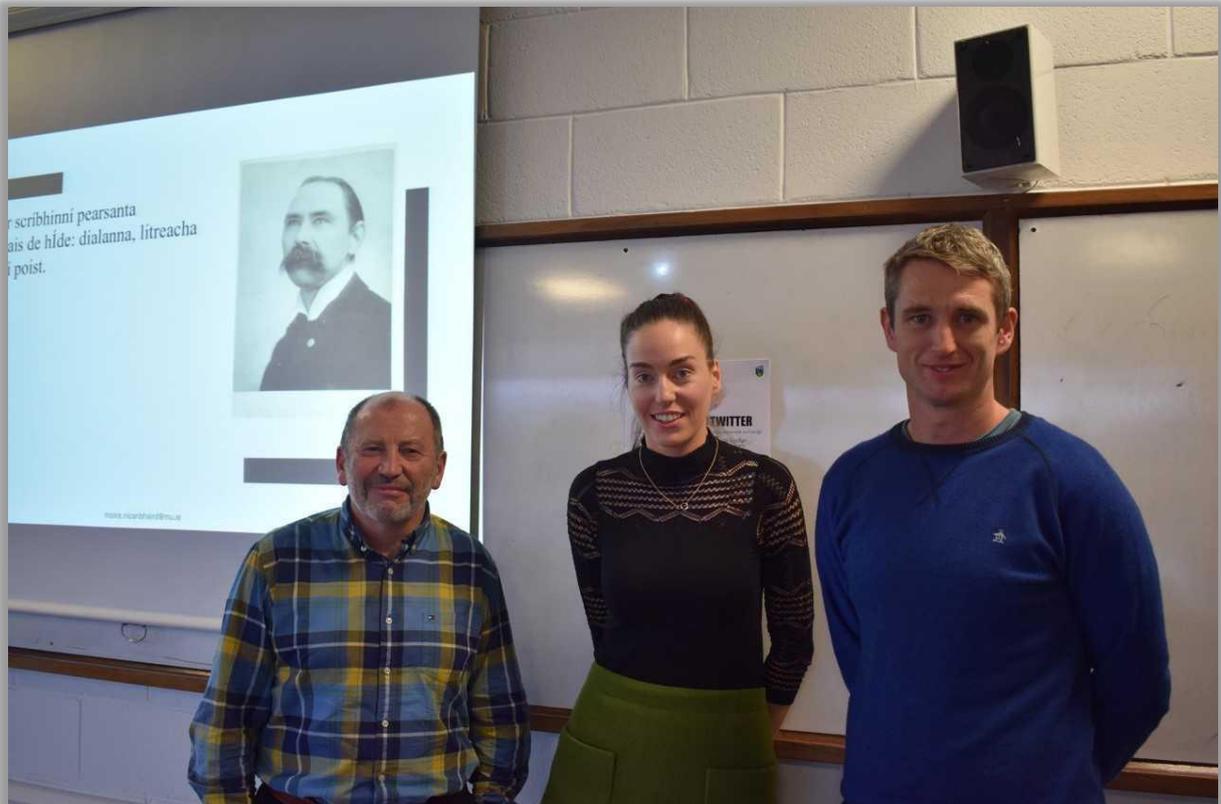
Early Years, Technology and Literacy



In July, a document funded by ScoTens was published. It was the culmination of a year's work between Tony Sweeney of the Froebel Department and Dr Jill Dunn from Stranmillis University College, Belfast. It explored digital literacy in both jurisdictions and evaluated the introduction and implementation of the use of I-Pads as part of the literacy strategy in both parts of the island of Ireland. Well worth a read!

“Ó Thrácht go Twitter”

Tá an Dr Máire Nic an Bhaire ó Roinn Froebel, Ollscoil Mhá Nuad ag obair le cúig bliana anuas in éineacht leis an Ollamh Liam Mac Mathúna ar fhoinsí éagsúla a bhaineann le Dubhghlas de hÍde. Tá Máire tar éis cainteanna a thabhairt ar fud an domhain, ó Mheiriceá go Prág, ar an ábhar seo. Thug sí léacht ar Dhubhghlas de hÍde in UCD le déanaí **mar chuid den tsraith ‘Ó Thrácht go Twitter’**. Bhí idir mhic léinn agus léachtóirí i láthair ag an léacht. Thug Máire léargas ar scríbhinní pearsanta Dhubhghlais de hÍde agus bhí sí ag díriú ar dhialanna, litreacha agus ar chártaí poist a bhaineann leis an gcéad Uachtarán. Bhí Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh mar chathaoirleach agus thug sé eolas don slua faoin togra dhigitithe atá ar bun ag Cnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann chun dialanna agus comhfhreagras de hÍde a chur ar fáil don phobal.



An Dr Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh, Cnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann, UCD, An Dr Máire Nic an Bhaire, Roinn Froebel, MU agus An Dr Cathal Billings, Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh agus an Bhéaloidis, UCD

Giant-Catcher Adventures – article by Dr Triona Stokes



An article written by Dr Triona Stokes from the Froebel Department, was published recently in the INTO journal – In-Touch (October 2017). It provides a great framework for a forty-minute Drama lesson plan for students and teachers of First and Second Classes, on the subject of character motivation through narrative development. Well worth a read!

Presentation at LAI Conference, 2017

Preparing Effective Teachers of Reading- as easy as ABC?

The Froebel Department were delighted to take part in the summer programme for undergraduate research (SPUR) in Maynooth University. Two students, Rachel Duignan, who is studying Psychology and Aoife Corry, a student in the Froebel Department, completed the six-week research project in conjunction with mentors Niamh Fortune and Fiona Nic Fhionnlaoich, both of whom are lecturers in the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education. This ongoing piece of research examines the requisite content, the most effective methodologies and characteristics of effective teachers of reading.

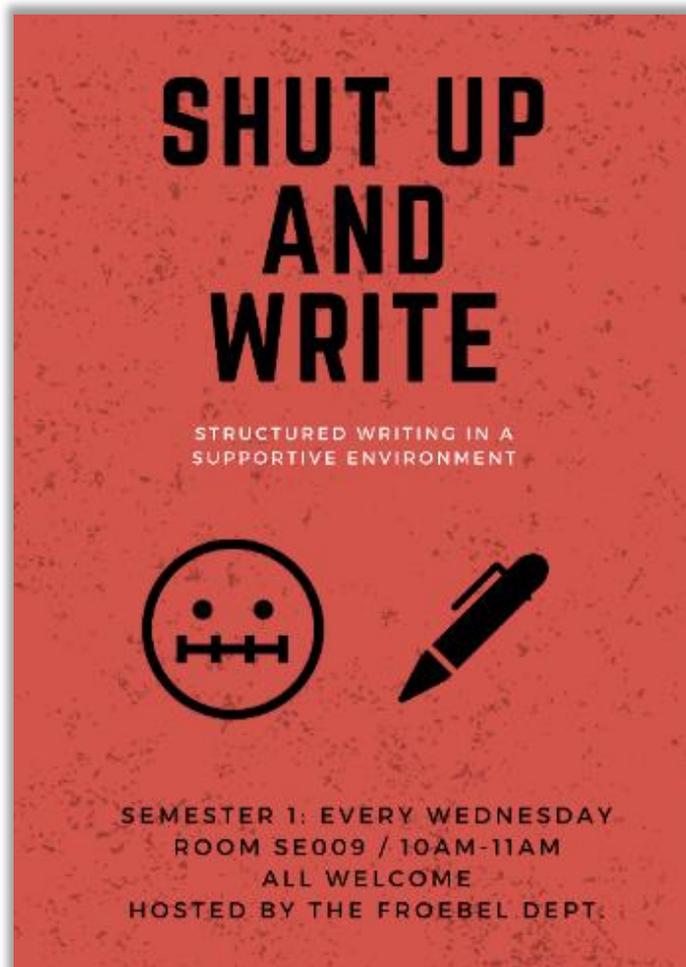
Results and conclusions from this research may have implications for future teacher educators with regard to reflection on their own instructional practice.



Rachael Duignan, Fiona Nic Fhionnlaoich, Niamh Fortune and Aoife Corry

Froebel Department initiative

Aoife Titley has set up a new project called “Shut Up and Write”. It follows on the success of similar sessions which she facilitated last year. This facility is open to any staff or students who would like to participate in an hour of structured writing – the choice of which will be at the discretion of the writer and will take place in SE009 every Wednesday at 10 am during this semester. Posters such as below are on display around the School of Education to remind people of this invaluable opportunity and space to write.



Since starting, people have engaged well with this initiative, with some students using it as time to start, work on or complete assignments, while some staff have found sanctuary in the room to write up some of their research – a great success all round.

Student News

The newly-elected Year Representatives for the 2017-2018 academic year are as following:

Y1: Hannah Brady: Hannah.brady.2018@mumail.ie

Y2: John Redmond: john.redmond.2017@mumail.ie / 083-1016322

Y3: Aoife Hession: aoife.hession.2016@mumail.ie / 085-7710563

Y4: Cliona Robotham: cliona.robotham.2015@mumail.ie /

PMEd 1: Jamie Murray: Jamie.murray.2014@mumail.ie / 085-7689111

PMEd 2: Louise Brady: louise.brady.2014@mumail.ie / 085-1144452

Froebel Senator: Grace Kenny (Y2): grace.kenny.2017@mumail.ie

Each person has written a piece about him or herself so that you get to know the members of the team that represent the voice of the student body in the Froebel Department.

Hannah Brady

Hi, my name is Hannah Brady and I'm the first year Froebel rep. I'm nineteen and from Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan. I'm an avid reader. I enjoy swimming and singing. I also love a good chat, so if you have any problems that I can help with, you know who to talk to!

John Redmond

I'm John. I'm nineteen and one of five children from Wexford. I love swimming, badminton and Froebel, of course! First year was brilliant and this year I'm excited to be involved in the Froebel Department and get to know you all as the second year class rep!

Aoife Hession

Haigh! Is mise Aoife Hession. Táim mar ionadaí na tríú bliain i mbliana. Táim ag tnúth go mór leis an mbliain atá romhainn, chun a bheith mar ghlór na ranga i rith na bliana tábhachtaí seo. Táim mar chisteoir na Cuallachta agus leas cathaoirleach Craobh Froebel na Cuallachta agus táim ar bís faoin dá post sin chomh maith. Is as Contae na Gaillimhe mé, agus tá an-suim agam i gceol.

Clíona Robotham

My name is Clíona Robotham and I am serving as the Class Rep for Fourth Year students on the B. Ed course this year. I will also be representing all of the B.Ed students and BA students in my role as Academic Rep on the department's Academic Committee. I would like to give my thanks to my fellow students for the nomination. I hope that through these roles I can act as a voice for us students.

I am very excited to be working alongside students in my year, the Froebel Department and the wider community to organise a number of events as part of the Dissolving Boundaries initiative which aims to promote student teacher leadership and agency.

Finally, on behalf of my fellow classmates I would like to thank our beloved Ailbhe Ryan for representing us so well over the past two years. She is a hard act to follow, but I look forward to the challenge.

Jamie Murray

I am 22 years old and I live in Dublin. I studied English and Geography in Arts as my undergraduate degree which I did here in Maynooth. I am an avid runner and guitar player.

Louise Brady

My name is Louise Brady. I'm 22. I'm from Firhouse in Dublin and I'm in second year of the Professional Masters of Education here in the Froebel department. Before this, I studied Music and Irish in Maynooth University. I'm a classically trained singer and play guitar and piano. I'm part of a Gaelic squad here in MU and am delighted to be class rep of the PMed 2 group.

Grace Kenny – Froebel Senator

*Hi! my name is Grace Kenny. I am in second year and from Longford! I am excited to see what the year ahead will bring in Maynooth. I was the class rep for my year last year and this year I have the pleasure of being **your Froebel Senator**. I'm **delighted to be involved** in student life on campus this year in the SU and hope to have a positive impact. I immensely enjoyed my first year in Maynooth and got involved in events whenever **possible**. **Being a huge fan of music and theatre it's no surprise I'm a member of the MU Musical Society**. I hope to continue this into second year and get to know more students. If you have any questions about campus life or Froebel, feel free to stop me in the hall!*

Welcome to the new PMEd group!



In September, we welcomed our new group of PMEd students – an enthusiastic bunch, with loads of energy and enthusiasm.

We wish them all the best over the next two years.

Invitation to Dance



Hi! I'm Ariana, and I'm currently in my 2nd year of the B-Ed. programme.

Being a Froebel student, I have a fairly full-time schedule, apart from my involvement in clubs and societies. However, I'm a firm believer in making time and strongly recommend every student to get involved in at least one club/society. **It's** a fantastic way to meet new people and a lot of my best memories from last year come from being involved in clubs and societies including dance intervarsities and the hockey trip to Edinburgh! I am the Secretary of the Dance Society for this year. If you're thinking about joining, or wish to try something new but aren't sure what, I would recommend the Dance Society.

We are an enthusiastic friendly bunch of people who share a passion for dance and fun. We run weekly classes that cater for all levels and have a variety of workshops and events throughout the year, both in Maynooth and elsewhere, including the DCU Dance Experiment, Maynooth's Best Dance Crew and Maynooth Come Dancing!



Keeping an eye and a hand on the ball.....Colm Keane (Y3)



During my past three years in Maynooth University, I have been involved with the Olympic Handball Club at a committee level. Last year proved to be my most challenging and rewarding position as president.

The benefits of being involved in a sports club such as this include: the development of management and inter-personal skills, the formation of life-long friendships and of course, the health benefits of participating in a physical sport.

During my months as president I developed my skills of co-operation, collaboration, organisation, problem solving, and professionalism, among many others. All of these skills are applicable from a teacher's perspective in the classroom so this experience proved to be very beneficial.

I would highly recommend that Froebel students do their utmost to be involved at a committee level in MU's clubs and societies.



Orientation Week



This year, three Froebel students, Grace Kenny, Ciarán Watts and Aoife Hession (see above), took part in Welcome Week, as Orientation Leaders. They spent the week helping and guiding new, incoming first years from all courses, as they took their first steps in their journey as Maynooth University students. **Here's what each of them** had to say about the experience.

Being an Orientation Leader this year was certainly something I do not regret and if given the chance I would do it all again. I would recommend everyone to get involved if possible as not only do I feel like I gained many valuable skills which will stand to me in the future, such as mentoring, leading and working as part of a team. But also, as I made friends during the week and had the best fun with them. And if none of that makes you want to get involved in this wonderful experience; think of the free stuff!! - Grace Kenny

I thought being an OL was a great experience. This is my second year being an OL and I would definitely do a third if I could. As well as getting to meet a load of new people from the experience it's great fun! I gave campus tours all week, so I also got to learn more about the campus. I would definitely recommend signing up to be an OL next year as it is a great experience! – Ciaran Watts

*I really enjoyed being an Orientation Leader. This was my second year in the position, and I will happily do it again next year! I was part of the Green Team, and our job was to give **campus tours to the new students. It's a great way to meet other students, develop confidence and leadership skills. I would highly recommend this job to everyone because, above anything else, it's a week of great fun!** –Aoife Hession*

Froebel Society



My name is DJ Hanley (in middle, above) and I am the President of Froebel Society. The Froebel Society promotes the teachings of Friedrich Froebel, which inspire our four core values - individuality, fun, freedom and play. All of our committee members aim to create opportunities for all the students throughout the years to get to know each other. Between mixers, nights out, fundraisers, table quizzes, challenges, days out and the much-anticipated annual Froebel ball, there is always something happening! We encourage everybody to join the society. We look forward to the year ahead for what we hope will be the biggest and best year yet!

Student Campaign about Gaeltacht Fees

The following letter was written by students of the Froebel Department, outlining concerns about the Gaeltacht fees. It was published on the INTO website.

The matter of Gaeltacht fees is of utmost importance to us students studying to become a primary school teacher through the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) and the Professional Master in Education (P.MEd) as the October Budget is fastly approaching.

In 2012, the Department of Education and Skills abolished the subsidy granted to all B.Ed and P.MEd students who are required by the Teaching Council to undergo two, two-week mandatory Gaeltacht courses. The cost to each student is €750 per course excluding transport costs, spending money, not to mention our loss of earnings for two weeks and for many the cessation of our part-time jobs.

We are urging the Government, to take immediate action and to reintroduce a subsidy to alleviate some of the increasing financial burdens that are placed upon us, as student teachers.

In our case, a small subsidy of €225,000 per year to the Gaeltacht course providers would sufficiently cover the annual cost to send 180 students from the Froebel Department of Early Childhood and Primary Education to take part in the Gaeltacht course. While this may be a small figure to our government, the reintroduction of this subsidy would be of huge support to us as student teachers.

If this unjust action of austerity by Enda Kenny's government was reversed, student teachers could focus on their learning and development of teaching skills rather than having to prioritise part-time work over our progression as student teachers.

Additional fees such as the cost of the Gaeltacht course act as a barrier to the diversification of the teaching profession. This fee indirectly discriminates against possible student teachers who would become role models for children of minority and/or poorer socio-economic backgrounds.

Please email your TDs this week from the link below and ask them to see that the Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton reinstates this government funding. Type in the link below, select your constituency, enter your details, preview the message and send.

Don't put this off. Don't leave it to someone else. Please do it now.

<http://www.into.ie/ROI/GaeltachtCourses/>

Froebel Gift Award

Attention students in Year 4 and PMEd.2

This is YOUR opportunity to participate in the Froebel Gift Award 2017-2018!

- **The** Froebel Gift submission draws links between Froebelian Theory and YOUR classroom practice.
- **It provides a short account of key aspects of Froebelian** theory, which you used in any of your School Placements.
- **Taking part in the Froebel Gift Award process** can be a vital aspect of preparation for interviews, and is a good indicator of your commitment to the philosophy of Froebel on your C.V.

Stage 1: Collect samples of work, display, methodologies/ photos/worksheets from this and previous SP sessions.

Stage 2: Participating students submit an 800-word (max) paper (both hard copy and e-copy) linking their classroom practice to Froebelian theory, any time during Week beginning 19/2/2018, to Katherine.Lally@mu.ie

Stage 3: The students whose papers are selected will be invited (after examinations 2018) to attend a 15-minute interview/ viva voce with a panel of 3, one of whom will be an external interviewer.

Along with images/work samples etc. arising from your practice, you may find the topics below useful for the (800-word max) submission on Froebel:

- Commitment to Play in Junior /other classrooms.
- Innovative use of Display, including interactive components
- Provision for Choice and recognition of the unique Gifts of each child.
- Inspirational exploration of the local environment and integrated teaching approaches
- Research-active approach to Froebelian principles.
- Discovery-based learning approaches
- The influence of Froebel on aspects of my teaching
- What makes a Froebelian practitioner?



Previous winners – Kevin Maher, Alison Murphy and Cian O' Callaghan with Katherine Lally and Professor Marie Mc Loughlin

On display in the School of Education

“Bláthanna”, was an exhibition of prints and digitally created images by Year 2 Froebel students (2016 -17). Mono-print and relief printmaking techniques were explored and the resulting prints were realised to a very high level, bringing a splash of colour to the building. The work was inspired by David Hockney’s Spring Flower Exhibition and was on display on the ground floor, School of Education during September and October.





Birds of Prey – Artist in Residence

There was great excitement this month as Froebel Dept. hosted a visit from local school **St Mary's BNS, Maynooth and Visual Artist, Maria Mc Kinney** as part of the *Birds of Prey*, Artist in Residence Programme. This is a collaborative project between Kildare Arts Service, St Mary's BNS, Froebel Dept. and Maria Mc Kinney (Art School curated by Jennie Guy), which began in September 2017. Maria has been working with two fourth classes (Mr. Fenton and Ms. Gunn) in St Mary's BNS on an imaginative art project inspired by *Birds of Prey*. B.Ed Year 2 students explored the same theme during Visual Art methodology lectures. During the visit the children and students participated in Drama, Visual Art and SESE sessions facilitated by Froebel Lecturers Dr Triona Stokes, Brian Tubbert and Laura Thornton, and shared the progress of their work to date. It is proving to be a very enjoyable project for all involved and we are greatly looking forward to seeing what emerges by the end of the residency.



Children's charcoal sketches exploring Tone



Grace Kenny, B. Ed Year 2 and the boys from St Mary's BNS

Froebel Department ResearchMeet

On Wednesday, 11th October, the Froebel Department hosted a ResearchMeet in the Drama Room. Students who graduated in June, as well as Tony Sweeney, lecturer in ICT and PE, presented on their recent research. They highlighted the process, the findings and considerations arising out of their work. This was of great interest and benefit to the current students as it showed how they might embark on their own research journey. A committed team of students, under the guidance of Séamie Ó Néill, organised the event, which received great praise from all who attended.



Tony Sweeney presenting his research



Ruaidhrí Fennell, Michelle Carter, Kathleen O' Reilly, Mary Dempsey and Emma O' Kane, presenters at the meeting



Organisers: Emma Gillis, Emma Fitzgerald, Cliona Robotham, Niamh O' Rourke (Project Leader) and Séamie Ó Néill

Craobh Froebel na Cuallachta

Cuireadh tús le Craobh Froebel na Cuallachta i mbliana. Tá sé mar aidhm na craoibhe láithreach na Gaeilge níos laidre agus níos feiceálaí a chruthú san Fhoirgneamh Oideachais. Beimid ag obair i gcomhoibriú le Cuallacht Ghaeilge na hOllscoile chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn trí imeachtaí sóisialta i rith na bliana. Faoi láthair, tá trí dhuine dhéag ar an gcoiste: Sinéad Ní Scollaigh, Aoife Ní Oisín, Rachel Nic an Rí, Rachael Ní Fhoghlú, Louise Nolan, Síofra Ní Chlochartaigh, Ailbhe Ní Chualáin, Jenny Nic Aodhgáin, Eoin Lally, Bláthnaid Nic Leannáin, Louise Brady, Rebecca Urquhart agus Regina Ní Thornóir.

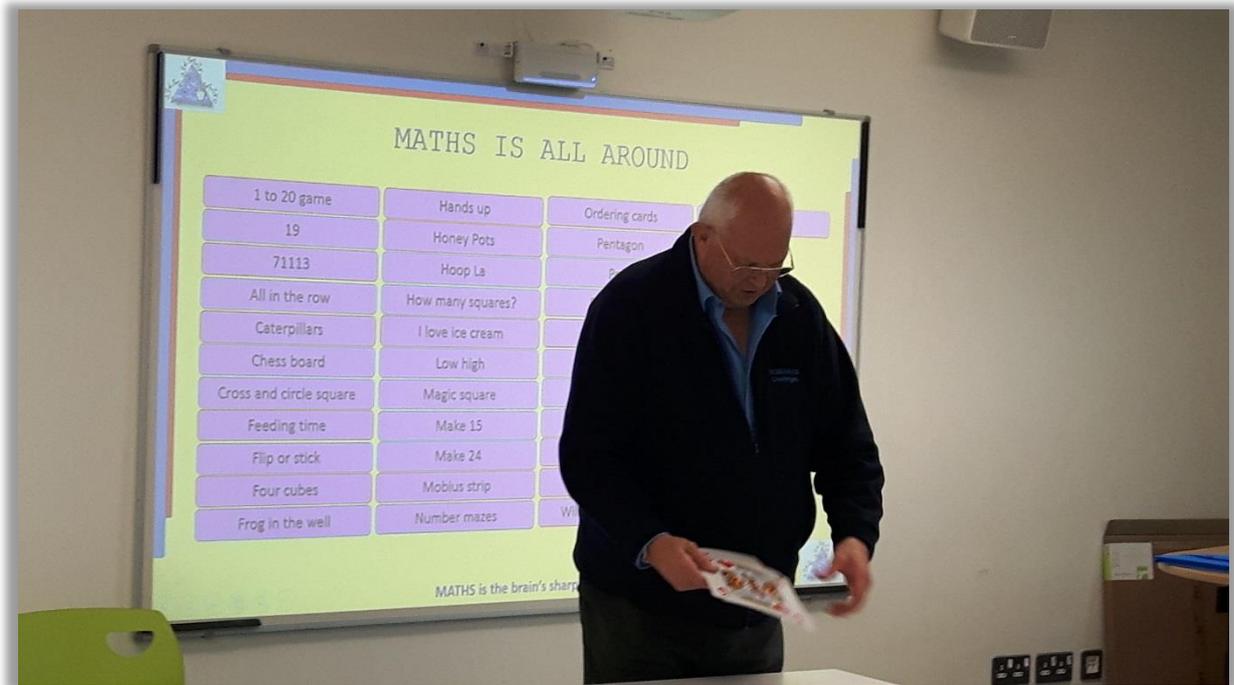
Tá go leor smaointe iontacha againn maidir le himeachtaí i rith na bliana ó chluichí péile go Pop Up Gaeltachtaí agus táimid ag tnúth go mór len iad a eagrú daoibh! Má fheiceann sibh muid timpeall na háite, abraigí haigh linn!

Sinéad Ní Scollaigh, Cathaoirleach na Craoibhe/Leas Uachtarán na Cuallachta

(Tá Eoin, Aoife, Síofra, agus Louise in easnamh sa phictiúr thíos.)



Maths Week 2017



Maths Week speaker Douglas Buchanan worked with 1st year students from Maynooth Community school. Douglas also visited Kilcloon N.S. where 4th and 6th class enjoyed maths games, puzzles and problems.

Thanks to Patsy Stafford who organised the visits as part of Maths Week 2017:
<http://www.mathsweek.ie/>

Pollination Plots



There are different patches of grassland around the campus which are allowed to grow wild as part of a national biodiversity plan within the University. There is a decrease in the bee population around the world and this plan allows for wildlife, including insects, birds and plants to grow and develop. There are multiple benefits to allowing the grassland to grow. Froebel students will be enabled to monitor the different areas, identify the different flowers and see who feeds of them and the changes that occur throughout the year. Six groups in each class will be in charge of a patch and monitor it every fortnight, taking into account the plants growing, the insects that it attracts and the birds that visit. Each group will show the other groups their findings of what, when and where they have identified within these habitats.

Aoife Corry BEd Y4

In the News....

The HEA has established the Programme for Access to Higher Education (PATH) fund to support initiatives that will progress the National Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2015 – 2019. PATH 1 focused on access to initial teacher education. Maynooth University Access Programme, the Department of Adult and Community Education, the Department of Education and the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education applied for funding under PATH 1. The proposal called *Turn to Teaching* aims to foster a culture among students from the target groups identified by the HEA including viz first time mature students, people from the Traveller Community, people with disabilities, lone parents etc., to consider the teaching profession as a desirable and achievable career option. The proposal was successful and resulted **in an allocation of €750,000 to implement it.** *Turn to Teaching* kicks off in November 2017. Katriona O Sullivan and Gareth Burns have been appointed to head up the project in collaboration with the various departments. Turn to Teaching will be formally launched in early Spring 2018. Further information is available from Katriona.osullivan@mu.ie

The Froebel Department will have much to offer and to learn as a result of this collaboration.



And the last words go to Froebel himself....

*Children are like tiny flowers; they are varied and need care,
but each is beautiful alone and glorious when seen in the
community of peers.*

*"Nothing comes without a struggle. Strife creates nothing by
itself, it only clears the air. New seeds must be planted to
germinate and grow, if we will have the tree of humanity
blossom . . . We cannot tear the present from the past or from
the future. Past, present, and future are the Trinity of time. In
the children lies the seed-corn of the future!"*

*Play is the highest level of child development . . . It gives . . .
joy, freedom, contentment, inner and outer rest, peace with the
world . . . The plays of childhood are the germinal leaves of all
later life.*