

Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education

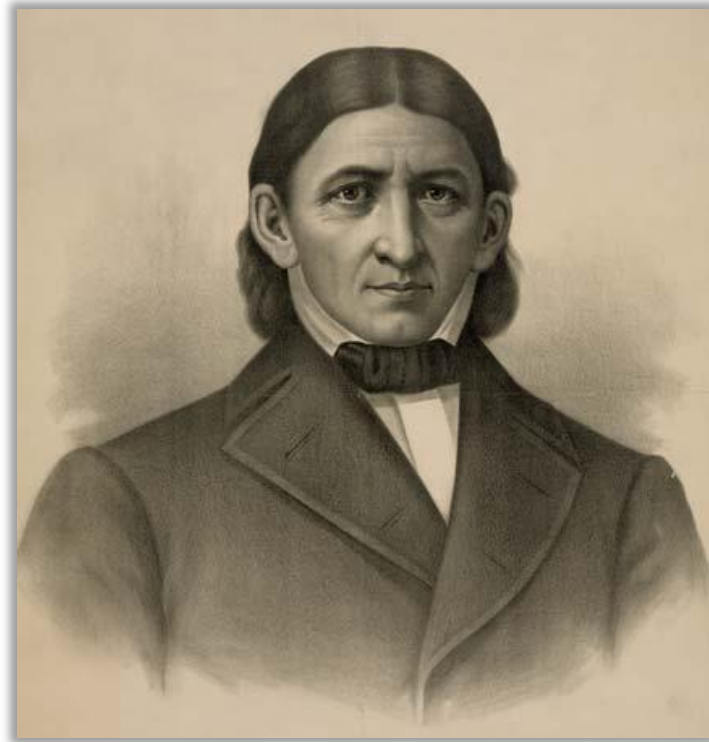


Séamie Ó Néill, Fiona Nic Fhionnlaoich, Prof Amanda Corrigan, Deirbhile Nic Craith, Dr Triona Stokes, Tony Sweeney and Prof Marie Mc Loughlin at the INTO/ Froebel Seminar

Machnamh – Reflections

June– Meitheamh, 2018

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

By Prof Marie Mc Loughlin



As we approach the end of this academic year, I am delighted to welcome you to the third edition of *Machnamh*. This semester has been busy and *Machnamh* manages to capture a broad selection of the very many social, cultural and academic events which have been enjoyed by student and staff in the last few months. Some of the highlights include accounts of the annual Froebel Ball, the diverse activities held during Froebel Week, the Erasmus + Conference, the School Placement seminar held in partnership with the INTO and the Sahlberg visit.

In capturing the myriad of activities, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has taken a lead role in making these events happen. Collectively, they foster a climate and culture which significantly contributes to the overall development of student teachers and instils within them the importance of community and collegiality. It is within this vein that I believe *Machnamh* provides an opportunity for to leave lasting visual imprints of the special camaraderie evident in the Froebel Department.

We look forward to receiving more articles in the next edition of *Machnamh* in the next academic year. Meanwhile, enjoy a well-deserved break over the summer months.

Professor Marie Mc Loughlin

Head of Department

Research in the Froebel Department

Those who are part of, or in any way associated with the Froebel Department, know that research is an intrinsic element of the teaching and learning process. The concept of Teacher as Researcher is a pillar of the BEd, PGSEN, BA and PMEd courses and will be the overarching emphasis of the new MEd (Action Research) course which is already booked-out for next September.

Final-Year Students on the BEd, BA and PMEd courses completed dissertations as part of their programme and are now competent and confident to engage in further research into their practice, with the view to enhancing it, where possible. These students have also made significant steps along the road towards further qualifications where the gathering of data, analysing of the findings and the making of recommendations for future practice will be required. It is hoped that very soon the Froebel Department will be in a position to offer Doctoral courses.

In this edition of *Machnamh*, a synopsis of some of the research which was carried out and that which is ongoing, is highlighted. This includes work by both staff and students. Thoughts on the process from students who have completed their final examinations are included. It is interesting and gratifying to read that the ongoing nature of research and learning is a recurring theme woven throughout the student reflections as is their desire to continue carrying out further research.



PMEd Year Two students thank the course facilitators at the final session...

New MEd programme to start in September

A new and exciting Master's course will be offered from September as part of the development of Postgraduate courses in the Froebel Department. The course leader will be Dr Bernadette Wrynn and this course will follow on from the BEd programme in terms of approach, with an extended dissertation based on the teacher researching his or her own practice in the education setting.



Bernadette Wrynn - Course Leader

Master's Degree in Education (Research in Practice)

This programme aims to provide opportunities for educators to explore and examine aspects of their own practice with a view to improving the educational experiences of the students in their care. Central to the programme is the development of a reflective disposition which is a core principle underpinning action research. Recent Teaching Council policies such as Induction (Droichead) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) (Cosán) promote teaching as a lifelong learning continuum along with the concept of teacher as researcher. This Master's in Education upholds the concept of teaching as innovative professional practice, combining academic study with research in practice. It is envisaged that successful candidates of the programme will go on to serve key roles in the educational community as curriculum and policy developers. Underpinned by the philosophy of Friedrich Froebel, his contemporaries and later scholars, this programme will specifically explore Action Research in its many forms within educational settings. Through the work of Froebel (1933), Dewey (1912), Brookfield (1995) and others associated with critical reflection, this programme will provide opportunities to further develop students' skills at a higher level in order to inspire transformative practices within educational settings.

It was intended that this course would be offered subject to ten students enrolling. As it turned out, by closing date for applications, nineteen students had signed up – very heartening indeed!

Dr Patricia Kennon



Dr Patricia Kennon, lecturer in English Literature at the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, won a Julie Johnson Kidd Travel Research Fellowship for her project, “Enhancing Pedagogy and Scholarship with New Research Methods Through the Lens of Children’s Literature Studies” The Julie Johnson Kidd Travel Research Fellowships have been developed to assist faculty engaged in the liberal arts and sciences in research projects that contribute to informing classroom teaching. The Fellowship is offered by the consortium of European Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences (ECOLAS, a non-governmental educational consulting group that proposes to address the ventral issues surrounding the development of education for 21st century Europe.

Dr Kennon’s writing and projects this year include the following:

“Superpowers Don’t Always Make You a Superhero”: Posthuman Possibilities in Michael Grant’s *Gone Series*.’ In Donna White and Anita Tarr eds. *Finding Our Humanity in a Posthuman World: Posthumanism in Young Adult Literature*. University Press of Mississippi.

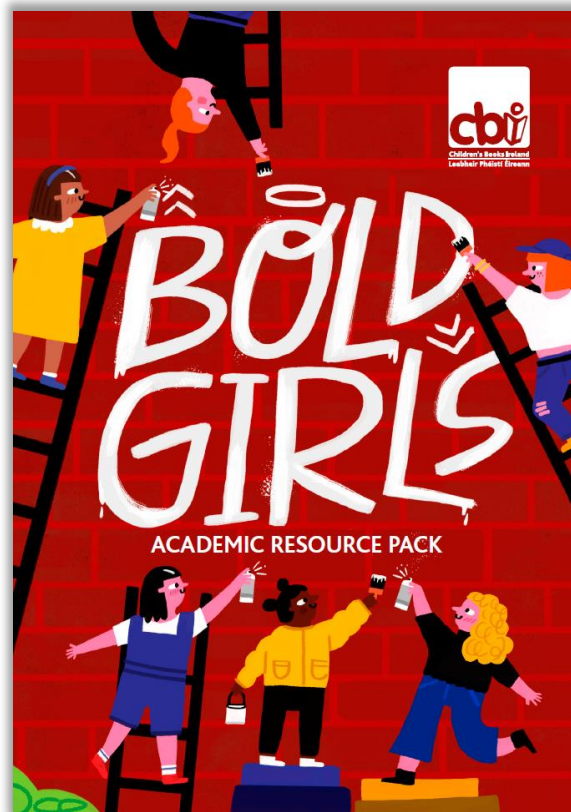
In March 2018, she co-authored ‘50 Picture-books to Change the World!’ This was co-authored with Thérèse Hegarty. *Citizenship Education: 100 Years On*. Eds. Margaret Nohilly, Bernie Collins, Anne Marie Kavanagh, Seline Keating, Fiona O’ Mahony and Carol O’ Sullivan. SPHE Network. <http://sphenetwork.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/2018-Conference-Proceedings.pdf> P31-41.

Also published in March 2018 was *Bold Girls: Academic Resource Pack*. Children's Books Ireland. Online.

<http://childrensbooksireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Bold-Girls-Academic-Pack-A4-web.pdf?x80329>

In March 2018, Dr Kennon co-authored a podcast with Valerie Coghlan and Claire Dunne. "The Representation and Celebration of Females in Children's Literature". Online. <https://issclblog.wordpress.com/podcasts>

In April 2018, Dr Kennon presented a seminar at 'A World of Stories: Exploring Global and Intercultural Issues Through Picturebooks' at Dublin City University, Dublin.



It is anticipated that the Froebel students will benefit greatly from reading this research as it pertains to subject-matter which is intrinsic to the courses offered as part of their programmes.

Séamie Ó Néill

The academic year 2017-2018 was a productive year for Head of Education, Séamie Ó Néill. In terms of research he completed and presented in a variety of for a, these included

- Presentation to Swedish Teacher Educators: B. Ed programme in Froebel Department, Maynooth University.
- Presentation as co-presenter with Laura Thornton *NIPT/ITE Forum: Reflective Practice the Froebel B. Ed.*, Maynooth University.
- Presentation to *INTO Joint Seminar: School College Partnerships*, Maynooth University. This was organised by the School Placement Committee.
- Presentation to North South Teacher Exchange: *An Overview of the Primary School Curriculum*, Maynooth University.
- Presented at the Froebel-hosted Erasmus+ project Conference: *A Digital Journey in Europe*. May 2018. This conference was organised by Séamie, Tony Sweeney, Keith Young, Rebecca Boyle, and Vera Timmons

After a busy year reading, writing and presenting research, Séamie still managed to spare a few moments to enjoy an ice-cream with Peter Coakley, Principal of St Mary's National School, Maynooth, who recently retired. Peter bought an ice-cream for every child in the school on his last day at work and Séamie just “happened” to be in the right place at the right time when the ice-cream was being distributed!



Tony Sweeney

In April, 2018, Tony Sweeney's article was published in the British Journal of Educational Technology. This article was co-authored with Jill Dunne.



Writing and iPads in the early years: Perspectives from within the classroom

Jill Dunn

Tony Sweeney

First published: 29 April 2018

<https://doi.org/10.1111/bjet.12621>

Abstract

Writing is a complex and effortful activity and recent surveys indicate that fewer children are enjoying writing or engaging in writing outside of school. Yet compositional writing is a part of the primary curriculum and is an essential part of education. This small-scale international study aimed to garner the views of primary school teachers and children on using iPads in teaching compositional writing and how this writing differed from using paper and pencils. Three teachers and classes of primary school children in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland participated in the study. Individual interviews with the teachers, focus groups with the children and child-led virtual tours of the iPad were all used to gather perspectives. All participants reported on the benefits of using iPads to teach compositional writing. These included fun and enjoyment, greater choice and creativity, the value of multimodal communication and assistance with spelling. However, all participants also advocated a balanced approach to the teaching of compositional writing.

International Visits

Drama and Music – A Norwegian approach



From 30th April to 2nd May, 2018, the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood hosted a staff exchange from Norway. Anne Kristine Wallace Turoy and Siv Odemotland represented the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, with whom Maynooth University has an established Erasmus partnership. This Erasmus visit reciprocated an Erasmus Staff Exchange undertaken by Lecturer in Drama Education, Dr Triona Stokes in October 2017.

Anne Kristine is a lecturer in Music Education and has a leadership role in the Arts in Early Childhood Education. Siv Odemotland is specialist in Drama in Education with extensive experience in the area of Early Childhood Education. A co-taught seminar and workshop by Siv and Anne Kistine was delivered to Year 1 and Year 3 BA Early Childhood Education students. PMEd 1 students and Year 3 B.Ed. students availed of drama workshops on storytelling and the use of the imagination, in addition to song-singing with young children. The quality and variety of the workshops offered made for a very rich final lecture for the student groups selected.

Checking-out Froebel courses – visitors from the Czech Republic



Froebel Department recently welcomed visitor from the Faculty of Education, Palacky University, Czech Republic. Pictured discussing School Placements are (left to right) Séamie Ó Néill, Ruth Valentová and Jana Korinková



Erasmus student Anna Baumgert and P MEd 2 student Erica Fortune

St Mary's – on both sides of the Atlantic

A welcome was extended to St Mary's College, Notre Dame, who, in turn, were greeted by St Mary's National School, Maynooth (14th May). Pictured with the group are Majella Dempsey and Séamie Ó' Néill.



The photograph below shows Prof Pasi Sahlberg and the HEA celebrating achievements of Froebel Department and colleagues in the School of Education since the move to Maynooth University campus.



Erasmus Programme

In this article, Erasmus student, Anna Baumgert gives an account of her (extended) Erasmus placement in the Froebel Department.



“Teacher as Learner” - 7 months of play, unconditional positive regard and a German guy called Froebel

“So, Anna, what did you do today?” “Oh well, I started this morning with planting salad, I was catching a giant, I played the recorder, traded with paper shapes, colored in some mandalas and then in the afternoon I made a rocket and tried not to hit people with it, just the usual things”. Like you can see and maybe already know, studying at Froebel can be a lot of fun, but it also means a busy schedule, lots of work, high pressure and barely any time to take a breath and relax. Luckily the expectations for an Erasmus student are not the same as for everyone else, so I could have more of the fun and less of the stressful parts. After I had learned that not *everyone* who asks, ‘how are ya?’ really wants to hear my story, the right door doesn’t lead to the very top floor and that there is a huge difference between week A and week B, my Erasmus adventure could finally begin. One of the courses I attended in my first semester was called “Teacher as Learner” and this soon became my motto for the following 7 months. Take part, join lectures, make friends, have fun, work (most of the time) hard, open your horizon and learn as much as you can. I started with having four lectures in two year groups and the plan to be back in Germany by December. I left in April having joined at least one lecture in nearly every subject, got to know all the Froebel staff and students and gained a wealth of knowledge, experience and resources. Terms like AISTEAR, unconditional positive regard, Big Book, Gaeilge, DASH, Circle time, teacher-in-role and most importantly Froebel, child-centered and play became part of my daily vocabulary. I quickly got used to small and welcoming class groups, to lecturers that are approachable and supporting and a variety of very different and stimulating lectures. Leaving Froebel after all this time was hard, but with the Froebel Ball drawing an amazing close to the year and a huge collection of good memories, I will never forget about my Erasmus experience in Ireland.

Thomas goes to Finland...



My name is Thomas Cunningham, and I had the absolute privilege of spending semester one on Erasmus studying in the University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu. As Maynooth is one of the only teaching universities in Ireland that enables its students to take part in the Erasmus programme, it was an experience I knew I would not regret.

As Finland have recently enjoyed global acclaim as one of the world's leading countries in education, I had the opportunity to take part in the Erasmus-in-schools programme as well as a 12-week placement. I observed Maths lessons on frozen lakes, Science lessons outside in temperatures of minus 23 degrees and language lessons on a reindeer farm. With an integrated approach to teaching and learning, accompanied by the desire to educate outdoors, the Finnish teaching culture reinforced everything we learn here in Maynooth. During my time in Finland I also took classes in French and Finnish, joined the skiing, basketball and snowboarding club as well as the debating society where we went as far as the Helsinki semi-finals. This experience has had a profound impact on my approach to teaching and learning, and will continue to act as a source of inspiration for the duration of my teaching career.

The Erasmus programme also offered an additional educational and cultural experience as we visited schools and universities in St. Petersburg Russia, Stockholm Sweden, Tallinn Estonia and Oslo Norway. Along my travels I met some of the most inspirational, motivated and outgoing people. My Facebook newsfeed now features posts from Italian doctors, Brazilian singers, Polish Dead-Weight Champions, German linguists, French dancers and Russian cooks. As a result, I have become more aware and accepting of difference, and in general more appreciative of life. These are beliefs that now prevail through my teaching and have created a more inclusive learning environment in my classroom.

While the Erasmus programme was a once in a life-time opportunity, I was delighted to return to Maynooth to continue studying with what can only be described as an enthusiastic and supportive year group.

I would highly recommend the Erasmus experience to every Froebel student considering to study abroad. It's an opportunity worth saying "yes" to.

Maynooth University Froebel Department and University of Strathclyde Glasgow Student Exchange

Following on from the success of last year's exchange, this year's exchange with the student teachers of the University of Strathclyde took place during reading week, just before the Easter break.

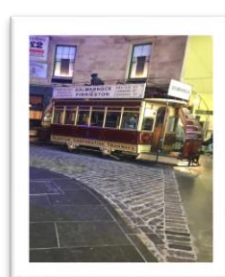
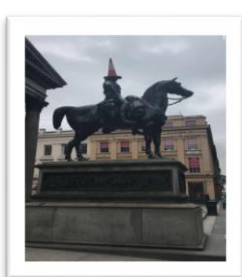
As suggested by the students which took part in the exchange last year, the Scottish students celebrated St. Patrick's Day here in Ireland. This was an experience which the girls thoroughly enjoyed.

Before returning to Scotland, the girls visited Maynooth; exploring the town, the University campus and a local school. On the same day, Shauna Ryan (Year 4), Tommy Cunningham (Year 3), Ciara Heslin (Year 3) and myself made the short journey to Glasgow.

The first day of the trip was spent exploring the city and what it had to offer. We visited a range of art galleries and museums as well as the Glasgow Science Centre which we were pleasantly surprised to discover all had free admission. These would be great places to bring children on trips with free admission making it much more attractive! A particular highlight was the Museum of Transport which had a range of interactive displays, such as old tram carriages and buses which visitors could get up on.

On the final day of the trip we visited the University of Strathclyde where we listened to presentations by Erasmus students which were based on education systems in their home countries of; China, Germany and Belgium. After each presentation we had an opportunity to comment and ask questions and were asked to discuss how the Irish system differed or was similar.

Afterwards we met up with the Scottish students and we chatted about university life and teaching in Scotland and in Ireland and got on education on Scottish slang. The exchange was a fantastic experience which we all extremely enjoyed.



The World of Sport and the Froebel Department

Maynooth University Soccer Team 2017/2018



My first year of college soccer proved challenging yet very enjoyable. The girls really welcomed the newcomers in training and I have made some great friends on the team. We trained every Monday and Wednesday night, so it didn't take long to get to know everyone. The year was full of ups and downs with a number of wins and unfortunately a number of losses. We defeated some great teams such as UCD, DCU and NUIG. We then qualified to play in the Intervarsity Cup and we were unlucky to lose only 2-0 to IT Sligo in the final. We also took part in the Futsol competition, where we won our regional competition.

At the end of the year we had an awards presentation where I was delighted to win Fresher of the Year. It has given me a huge confidence boost going forward and I am very excited for it all to start over again the next year. Hopefully we can get a few more medals in the back pocket.

Sarah McKevitt, Year 1.

On MU Twitter, “Congratulation to our Division One Player of the Westmeath LGFA League representatives – Fiona Coyle (Froebel) and Jennifer Rogers.”



Congratulations to Róisín Byrne for being selected to play on the Lidl Ireland, GAA Division Three team.

Amongst the Maynooth University GAA Player of the Year recipients was Aimee McNally (Year 4). Aimee is in the front row, on the right. Congratulations!



Congratulations to Froebel students Pádraig Walsh and Ronán Smith on winning the Ryan Cup with Maynooth Senior Hurling Team.



Maynooth University 2-19

Ulster University 0-9

An excellent all-round performance from the Maynooth University team secured victory in the Ryan Cup Hurling Championship as they proved too strong for Ulster University in the final played at Mallow.

Having edged out IT Tralee in the semi-final, the Kildare college took control from the off with the wind at their backs and by half-time they were in a comfortable position with an 0-11 to 0-4 lead and running out easy winners in the end by a 16-point margin.

The team was captained by Froebel PMEd student, Pádraig Walsh (Kilkenny). Also to the fore in an excellent result was B Ed 3 student Rónan Smith (Dublin).

Man of the match in the final was Brian Hogan, Tipperary Senior Hurling Goalkeeper.

High Society!

My Experience with Dance Soc: Ariana Harris



This year has been an extremely successful year in Dance Soc. This month we were delighted to attend the Board of Irish College Societies Awards as Maynooth University's best society. At Clubs and Soc's ball, we won Best Society and Best League Table.

This year Dance Soc. hosted over 180 events from classes to performance events. We hosted a range of classes from our four main styles; Lyrical, Jazz, Hip-hop, Irish, to Zumba, heels and various workshops including; Bollywood, flips and tricks, and pole dancing. Our most popular night time events were Maynooth's Best Dance Crew and Maynooth Come Dancing which included cooperation from members of other clubs and societies around Maynooth. All funds raised at these events were in aid of, our charity of the year, Jigsaw. We also organised an ice-skating trip with Snow sports before Christmas, and a movie and pizza night before Easter.

This year was one of our most successful years at Inter-Varsity level. We managed to bring home an amazing 4 trophies from the competition hosted by UCC!! Our Irish squad placed 2nd, both Jazz and Hip-hop squads placed 3rd and Karla Ong received the award for best individual Hip-Hop.

One thing that set us apart from other societies this year was our appearance on three television stations. We began the year by filming a section on jiving with the BBC for the programme *Stetsons and Stilettos* which aired on RTÉ on the 20th March. Our Jazz squad were invited to audition for *Ireland's Got Talent*, they went straight to the live auditions where they received an amazing four yeses!!

The final two events of our year are *Rewind* and our AGM. *Rewind* is a showcase of our inters performances, and various routines from classes throughout the year for friends and family.

Dance Soc. is renowned by Maynooth SU and other colleges as a super friendly and supportive society with many people describing us as a family. If you have any interest in dance I'd strongly recommend joining the 'dance fam' and not to be afraid of getting involved. Even if dancing isn't your thing, I'd recommend joining any society that'd suit you. Societies are a fantastic way of making new friends, escaping the stresses of the college workload, finding new experiences and creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Being a member of the MU GAA Club – Avril Flood



Hi! I'm Avril and I'm currently in my first year of the B-Ed. programme. I've thoroughly enjoyed my Froebel experience to date. As a true lover for the GAA, I joined the MU GAA club. What an enjoyable year it has been. From coming into University with a handful of friends, the Maynooth Gaelic football team has enabled me to meet so many great people and forge lasting friendships. There is no doubt it has been a challenging year, from pre-season training in the adverse conditions to long bus journeys across the country. The matches always made it worthwhile, though. From league to championship, we displayed admirable qualities of teamwork and co-operation. Throughout the year we gelled better as a team, the passion and hunger of my fellow team mates is what reminded me of my true desire for this sport. The commitment of the entire team gave me a personal sense of responsibility and obligation to give my very best. It has been a privilege to play alongside such a talented and determined group of girls. This would not have been possible without our fantastic management team, who believed in us. They gave each player a sense of importance about who they are and their role on the pitch, they instilled confidence and belief in each one of us. Gerry and Maria motivated us on and off the field, driving us to our fullest potential. Unfortunately, we didn't come home with the desired victories this year but I am optimistic for what next year has in store! *'Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success'* – Henry Ford

CPD and Seminars in the Froebel Department

Saol Project Visit.

On Thursday morning, 19th April, the second years had a very interesting visit from the Saol Project. They are an organisation who work with women, children and the wider community in North Inner-City Dublin. They work to highlight the difficulties faced by women who use drugs. The group of women who visited read a powerful poem which they had written about the stigma associated with drug use and the impact it had on their lives. Five Second Year students also presented on a variety of their own ASP settings such as Youth Reach, The Sunshine House, An Slí and Northside Community Playschool.



First Aid Course for Y4 and PMEd students - Froebel Week



Froebel Week Reflections

Retaining Key Froebelian Principles in Practice Seán Stafford (Y4)



Greg Joynt was the guest speaker and provided a multitude of perspectives on not only how to translate key Froebelian principles into practice but how to retain these key principles. It is going beyond the surface definition of child-centred principles and practices that we can thoroughly retain a Froebelian ethos to start with the child. Greg also underpinned the importance of the shaping and negotiation of teacher identity, particularly for newly qualified teachers in a new educational landscape. A Froebelian identity has also been retained through the creativity, spontaneity, imagination, structured freedom and joy of play that is rooted in Froebelian practice and evident in the classroom as the children put forward their own learning on which their play is structured. The key Froebelian principles also reinforce the importance of a sense of self in the classroom. Greg communicated his personal and professional Froebelian ethos through his interest in yoga. Greg also opened up new vistas of learning opportunities in underpinning key Froebelian principles which we will, in turn, translate into our own practice.

First Aid – Shauna Ryan (Y4)

On Wednesday of Froebel Week, final year students were given the choice to participate in one of three certified courses, one being First Aid. The course took place between 9:30am and 3pm. It was both practical and informative and covered a wide range of First Aid procedures and possible scenarios in which First Aid may be necessary. It was a highly worthwhile course for student teachers in particular as the material covered is essential for those in a position of responsibility and care. All participants completed a brief assessment at the end of the day in order to receive a certificate of attendance.

Principal with principles: Seán Hourihane- Aoife Doyle

Today's guest speaker, Sean Hourihane has vast experience as a principal. The application process of applying for a job has been outlined and we explored the personal and professional aspects of employment. The importance of teacher identity has been underscored in the talk as the importance of communicating one's Froebelian principles is key. Central aspects of the interview process have also been outlined. The importance of minor details cannot be underestimated when applying for a teaching position as first appearances are imperative. In addition, practical examples and connecting the abstract theory to practice and relevant classroom examples has been highlighted. It is in providing these examples that we can draw upon our experience in the classroom as teachers across our four years of experience.



Living in Direct Provision - Emma Gillis (Y4)

Zoryana Pshyk spoke with our fourth-year students about her experiences as an asylum seeker in direct provision in Ireland. She talked about the conditions within the centre she stayed in, her experience of raising two young children in direct provision and how she navigated the change in status which comes with being an asylum seeker. Zoryana's stories were both captivating and emotive for our students and gave a harrowing account of the experience of asylum seekers in Ireland.

Global Teachers Award - Louise Nolan (Y4)

Final year students were given the opportunity to partake in the Global Teachers Award with Vicky Donnelly from Galway One World Centre. The course involved lengthy discussions and activities around a range of social justice issues such as climate change, causes of poverty and global politics. It was a fantastic day which really demonstrated and strengthened our belief in exploring global justice issues with children. Being treated to lunch by Vicky was an added bonus! Those vegan burritos went down a storm!

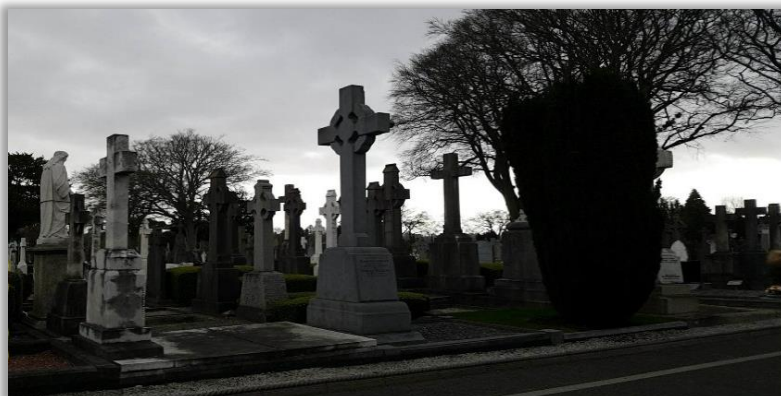
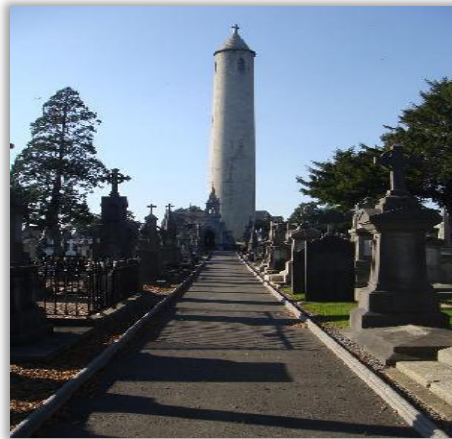
Creating a Froebel Classroom - Emma Gillis

Froebel graduates Kate Kirwan and Anna Keyes graciously gave up time to give the B.Ed 4 and PMEd 2 groups a workshop on building Froebelian practice into their own classrooms and schools since graduating. They talked about the challenges they faced in terms of conflicting attitudes from colleagues and finding compromises within the Primary School Curriculum. It was an extremely valuable lecture for the final year students who were eager to learn the tips and tricks of an NQT!



Glasnevin Cemetery – Naomi Marica

On Wednesday morning, we all scheduled to meet up with Brian in front of the Glasnevin Cemetery where we were going to spend the morning visiting, researching and taking part in the historic presence of the cemetery in the heart of Dublin. Our tour guide was as historically informed as he was humorous, which made the tour so much more enjoyable and fascinating. His smart remarks kept us all on edge and hungry for more information, and both himself and Brian co-operated in the shared delivery of historic knowledge which we absorbed. We had visited the gravestones of Sir John Gray, Roger Casement, Charles Stewart Parnell, Michael Collins, Daniel O'Connell, Éamon DeValera and many more, strolling physically and imaginatively through the fabrics of time and events that occurred during the late 19th Century and early 20th Century. We left Glasnevin Cemetery with a pride for Ireland, collaborative knowledge of the influential figures of the 20th Century and a newly found and/or enriched love for teaching History.



Pictured above are the gravestone of Michael Collins and the O'Connell Round Tower

National Art Gallery Visit - Ann- Marie Kelly

Following a very historical and factually laden morning at Glasnevin Cemetery we proceeded on to our next location for the day, the National Art Gallery. For me this was undoubtedly one of the highlights of Froebel week from an educational point of view. As an individual who did not fully understand or appreciate the value of art, I found this tour really opened my eyes to the huge possibilities for learning and the potential for children to broaden their perspective of the world around them, through art. Our tour guide effectively explained how this can be achieved using methodologies such as Pop Art where we take objects which they see in everyday life and encourage them to imagine them differently. For example, consider the possibility of pink, purple or blue trees, as painted by Monet. It was a very informative tour and the tour guide really managed to convey to us the potential of the Art Gallery as a location for future school tours.



Gráinne Mhaol comes to Froebel Department

On Thursday 19 April, Granuaile Pirate Queen came to Maynooth University for Froebel Week 2018. Ably led by dramatist Gabrielle Breathnach, this highly acclaimed interactive show explored themes of power, freedom and self-determination. The production exemplified imaginative storytelling with both the creative use of the actor in space and minimal props to support.

The team shared an accompanying teacher pack that highlighted curricular links for thematic exploration as well as Drama in Education lesson ideas. First and Third Year B.Ed. students and PMEd Year 1 students were joined by Sixth Class pupils from Maynooth Educate Together school and their teacher Noel Carey.

A rich arts-learning experience was widely reported by those who enjoyed the performance.



Prof Marie Mc Loughlin with the cast



The cast in action...

Digital Learning

This academic year has seen a lot of work done on an international level between member of the Froebel Department, the wider Maynooth University and a number of other European partner education settings. A number of workshops were given in the School of Education, culminating in a Digital Learning Conference which the Froebel Department hosted in Maynooth University. There were more than one hundred delegates at the one-day conference and it was gauged to be a huge success with further plans being put in place to develop many of the ideas which emanated from the seminars and workshops.

What follows are photographs of various aspects of what was called the “Digital Journey”.



Erasmus Plus Project
Primary School: The Digital Journey



Book Creator Workshop
Keith Young



Italian and Irish teachers using Mary Makey with Ailbhe Forde to make dance mats



Atymass NS at the Digital Learning Conference

Creative Textiles Event

Froebel Department exhibition in MU Library

*Froebel Department of Primary and
Early Childhood Education*

An exhibition by Froebel Students



“Creative Textiles– a sensory journey
through Prose, Poems and Pictures”

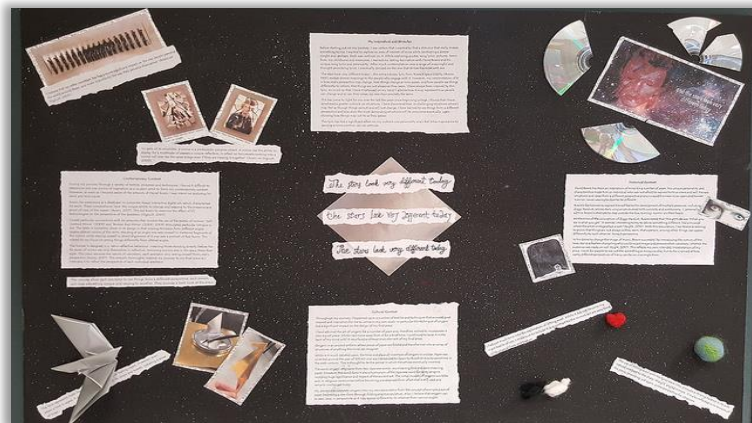
Maynooth University, Library Foyer

Wednesday 7th to Friday 16th March 2018





Laura Thornton and Michelle Winters celebrate the launch of the exhibition





Samples of the work of the students who took part in the elective, which was designed and facilitated by Laura Thornton, Lecturer in Visual Arts

Froebel Department/INTO seminar

A seminar on School Placement, organised jointly by the INTO and Maynooth University Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, and involving some of our other partners in education, took place on Saturday 14 April. The purpose of the seminar was to discuss experiences of school placement and to consider the opportunities and challenges from the perspective of principals, teachers, students and tutors. The INTO recently conducted a survey on the subject of school placement with teachers and principals, randomly selected from their membership database. Findings from this research were presented at the seminar, along with research on the student experience of placement. presented by the Froebel Department. The keynote presentation by Amanda Corrigan from the University of Strathclyde outlined the Scottish perspective on the policy and practice of student teacher school experience. It is anticipated that the seminar will inform policy and help to address the current challenges of school placement.



Séamie Ó Néill, Fiona Nic Fhionnlaoich,
Amanda Corrigan, Deirbhile Nic Craith,
Tríona Stokes, Tony Sweeney and Marie Mc Loughlin



INTO President Joe Killeen, Séamie Ó Néill and
Dierbhile Nic Craith(INTO)

Socrúchán Gaelscoile

An tseachtain tar éis na Gaeltachta, bhí ar mhic léinn sa dara bliain i Roinn Froebel dul chuig Gaelscoileanna. Chaitheamar seachtain ag baint taitnimh as an atmaisféar iontach i nGaelscoileanna ar fud na tíre. I rith na seachtaine, d'fhoghlaimíomar faoi acmhainní úsáideacha a bheadh oiriúnach do scoil ar bith. Bhí an t-ádh dearg orainn toisc go rabhamar ag obair in éineacht le múinteoirí den scoth a thug cabhair dúinn. Chomh maith leis sin, bhí an deis againn ceacht nó dhó a mhúineadh, rud a chabhraigh go mór linn freisin!

Thugamar faoi deara go bhfuil caighdeán Gaeilge na bpáistí ar fheabhas sna ranganna. Tá sé soiléir dúinn anois go n-oibríonn an córas tumoideachais freisin. D'fhoghlaimíomar go leor frásaí agus nathanna cainte atá bainteach leis na hábhair éagsúla. Beidh an taithí sin éifeachtach dúinn nuair a bheidh orainn ábhar a mhúineadh trí Ghaeilge an bhliain seo chugainn.

Tar éis dúinn seachtain a chaitheamh i ngaelscoil, tá níos mó muiníne againn ag múineadh trí mheán na Gaeilge. Is dócha go mbeadh sé ar intinn againn socrúchán scoile a dhéanamh i nGaelscoil sa todhchaí nó post a lorg i nGaelscoil amach anseo! Gan dabht, tháinig feabhas mór ar ár gcuid Gaeilge, ach ní hamháin sin, thug an taithí seo tuiscint níos fearr dúinn ar ár dteanga dúchais, ár n-oidhreacht agus ar mhúineadh na teanga sin; ***“Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam”***.

Niamh Shaw agus Gabrielle Bhreathnach



News from the BA (Early Childhood Studies)

The Froebel Department at Maynooth University, together with Early Childhood Ireland are delighted to present the Level 8 Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Teaching & Learning - a three-year, part-time professional degree. Our student cohorts comprise mature as well as Leaving Certificate students. A wide range of module topics are covered, considering areas such as: the child, context, and curriculum, pedagogy and creativity. Our lecturers are experts in the field of Early Childhood Education and care and are an engaging presence for students, seeking always to involve students in the learning process.'

Many of our graduates have gone on to complete Master's programmes, in areas such as Early Childhood Education, Special Education, Primary teaching and more. Others have attained more senior positions, leading educational practice either within their existing work context or abroad. Others still have had opportunities to gain employment in a range of wider ECEC contexts, Better Start, LINC, County Childcare Committees, and many more.

Our Student of the Year for 2017 was Claire Maguire. Claire received her Early Childhood Ireland Student of the Year 2017 Award at a special ceremony in Maynooth University on 21st March, 2018. Some comments from Claire:

"Doing the BA in Early Childhood Teaching and Learning with the Froebel Department at Maynooth University has given me the skills, knowledge and confidence to see myself as a valued early years professional. I feel that completing a degree is a necessary step for personal and professional development. If those working within the early years want to be recognised and respected as professionals within the education sector we need to hold a qualification on par with others working within the wider sector. The last three years have been a pleasure, working within a community of practice, leading lecturers with a proven interest and passion for early years' education and classmates who are so committed to providing quality early years' education and care and with so much practical experience and knowledge to share within the group.

The wide variety of modules completed within this degree course allows student to develop a wide range of early years' knowledge and skills over the three years, covering areas such as Play, Creativity & Imagination, Leadership, Curriculum & Observation, Social & legal Issues, Ethics, Literacy and Numeracy, Transitions and Reflective and Professional Practice. The diversity and variety of modules presented allow you to become a well-rounded early years professional with the ability to lead quality early years' practice." Claire Maguire



Froebel Department/Rathwire NS Partnership

Over the last three years, since the Froebel Department moved to the Maynooth Campus, a partnership has been set up between the university and Rathwire National School. The school has a very well-developed Mindfulness programme in place from Infants thru' Sixth Class. This has significantly impacted on the children's levels of engagement across all curricular areas and, most notably in the area of competency relating to spelling. Sara Haboubi, who has given input on the Mindfulness and Wellness Third Year elective on three occasions, has helped facilitate the introduction of a programme into the school.



Thanks to Dr Steve Mc Carron, Geography Department for presenting to students from Rathwire NS.



A group of Froebel students welcomed children from Rathwire National School to the School of Education and gave them a “taster” of life on campus. Judging by the children's level of enthusiasm, it looks likely that there will be a significant contingent of Rathwire students on campus in another few years – it's never too early to start planning for one's future!

Presidency for Froebel College Past-Pupil



Mary Immaculate College Announces New President

Mary Immaculate College is delighted to announce the appointment of Professor Eugene Wall as its new President.

Professor Eugene Wall graduated from UCD in 1975 with a degree in psychology. He was awarded a UCD postgraduate scholarship and undertook a research MA in the field of developmental psycholinguistics. He qualified as a primary teacher from Froebel College and taught part-time in several third-level institutions in Dublin prior to moving to Limerick in 1980. In 2001, he qualified from UCD with a PhD in Education.

Eugene taught developmental psychology and educational psychology in Mary Immaculate College from 1980 to 1998. For the latter part of that time, he was also Assistant Dean Academic Affairs in the College of Education of the University of Limerick. Following appointment to the role of Registrar/Vice-President Academic Affairs in 1998 he continued to lecture part-time on the B Ed programmes and the M Ed programme on educational psychology and on educational policy issues.

Professor Wall was one of our esteemed peer-review colleagues when we undertook our institutional review in 2017. His Froebelian background and understanding of the child-centred nature of our teaching approach rendered him an invaluable facilitator in the process.

Comhgháirdeas, a Eugene!

Mindfulness and Wellness

We are delighted to celebrate the first group of Third Year B.Ed students to successfully complete the .b Foundations Mindfulness Course, as a core part of the Elective Course 'Wellness and Mindfulness' in May 2018, which was facilitated by Ena Morley. The '.b Foundations' is an 8 week course designed specifically for teachers and adults in the school community who wish to learn the foundations of mindfulness. It was carefully crafted by the Mindfulness in Schools Project Team (www.mindfulnessinschools.org). This face-to-face course is experiential – encompassing active learning strategies and addresses themes such as bringing increased awareness to the present moment; how to manage stress, reduce its harmful effects and increase resilience; how to get on better with others, including pupils and colleagues; how to feel happier, calmer and more fulfilled.



TeachMeet 2018



Griangraf den fhoireann TeachMeet

A TeachMeet is an organised but informal meeting where participants offer a variety of nano (two-minute) or macro (seven-minute) presentations on any aspect of education. Participants can be actively involved as presenters, or can simply relax and listen to the presentations.

The 4th annual Froebel TeachMeet was held on March 8th in the School of Education Building. The TeachMeet is a student-led event, with the 3rd year B.Ed. student teachers taking on the role as part of their elective module Dissolving Boundaries through ICT, under the facilitation of Module Leader, Keith Young. The event was a great opportunity for students to demonstrate their planning and leadership abilities. There were 20 speakers and 70 attendees present, including teachers, principals and other academics. The friendly and professional atmosphere enabled networking and the inspiring content from the presenters provided the stimulus for many professional conversations over the evening. The Froebel Department places great emphasis on nurturing strong relationships with our partner schools and events such as the TeachMeet are an important part of that outreach. This year's event contributed significantly to sustaining those relationships. If you missed the event, you can catch up on the presentations on twitter [@FroebelTeachMeet](https://twitter.com/FroebelTeachMeet) or [@meet_2018](https://twitter.com/meet_2018).

Research in Partnership with the National Museum of Childhood

Katherine Lally

Katherine Lally, who is Senior Lecturer in Visual Arts in the Froebel Department, has worked over the last number of years as a partner with the National Museum of Childhood. This is a novel initiative designed to deliver a world-class facility exploring and engaging the spirit of childhood. The experience tells the story of the day-to-day lives of children growing up in Ireland through a fascinating array of artefacts related to childhood both in Ireland and the wider world.

It has a well-articulated vision and mission statement. Its vision is a world-class facility celebrating all the wonders of childhood. As regard its mission statement, it is that those who work there are dedicated to creating meaningful lasting experiences for children and adults to share. Specifically, our purpose is to;

- tell the story of the day-to-day lives of Irish children through objects related to childhood and growing up in Ireland
- stimulate and nourish the imagination of children by appealing to their sense of adventure and fun
- foster innovation and creativity for all
- create extraordinary family learning experiences through interactive and interdisciplinary engagement
- offer research opportunities and an extensive outreach programme
- contribute to the regional cultural and tourism economy in a significant and distinctive way.

The photographs on the next page were taken on the 19th August 2017, when the board of the National Museum of Childhood organised a “Day of Childhood”. The Art Workshop was one of several events including the “Big Dig” and presentations on “Childhood- Past and Present”. Froebel graduates volunteered their time and expertise to facilitate workshops in Science, Art and Drama. The first photograph shows how Froebel Gift 1 was used as a stimulus for the children’s paintings. Mary Mitchell O’Connor TD, (Minister of State for Higher Education) joined the Art workshop for the exhibition of children’s work in the second photograph.



Awards to students in the Froebel Department 2017/2018



Vere Foster Award for the Bachelor of Education (Primary) Student who achieved the highest grade in School Placement

Julie Sarah Geoghegan (BEd)

Vere Foster Award for the Professional Master of Education (Primary) Student who achieved the highest grade in School Placement

Rachel Murphy (PMEd)

Department of Education and Science Carlisle and Blake Award for the student who achieved the highest overall mark in the Bachelor of Education.

Julie Sarah Geoghegan (BEd)

The Froebel Gift Award is presented in recognition of excellence in both practice and research of the Froebelian philosophies (Bachelor of Education Primary)

Aileen Patricia Pettit (BEd)

The Froebel Gift Award is presented in recognition of excellence in both practice and research of the Froebelian philosophies (Professional Master of Education (Primary))

Sabina Mary Carthy (PMEd)

Early Childhood Ireland - BA in Early Childhood Teaching and Learning Award for the Student who achieved the highest grade

Claire Anne Maguire (BA)

Kolkata News

This year, a record-breaking number of 38 students from the graduating BEd and PMEd group will be visiting Kolkata in June. They will be accompanied for the first week by Laura Thornton and two new members of the committee, Rebecca Boyle, Department Administrator and Sinéad Cahill, alumni representative on the committee, who has spent two teaching periods in Kolkata. The students will be placed in HOPE education centres and will also support HOPE teachers in state schools.

This is the completion of 10 years of the Froebel HOPE Partnership and there will be a GALA DINNER to celebrate to be attended by Froebel teachers, HOPE staff, partner NGOs and local dignitaries – 150 – 200 are expected to attend the dinner in Kolkata.

Plans are in place for a new 5-Year Plan 2018-2023. It is envisaged that HOPE will support government-run Early Childhood settings to develop child-centred, activity-based education programmes. HOPE has asked Froebel to assist with this initiative

The students have fundraised individually and collectively for the HOPE project and on Thursday, 24th May, Laura Thornton and Dave, of the Cuckoo Sticks, gave a concert in the Drama/Music Auditorium in the School of Education, in aid of the project.



Below is a photos of the group having just been presented with over two hundred euro by Laura's niece, Ellen, who knitted, decorated and sold chicks for Kolkata.



The Department wishes the team a safe and fulfilling journey to Kolkata and back!

Stop Press!

Right up-to-the moment pictures are included here of some members of the group, since arriving in Kolkata. Detailed reflections of the whole experience will be included the next semester's issue of *Machnamh*.



In other news...



Photograph: Eric Luke

Teaching initiative aims to diversify ‘white, middle-class’ profession

Maynooth University programme to support migrants, Travellers and disadvantaged students. Maynooth University’s “Turn to Teaching” programme seeks to address barriers faced by marginalised students in entering teaching.

In April 2018 the HEA PATH 1 fund, allocated €750,000 to Maynooth University to implement the Turn to Teaching project. This 3-year project aims to diversify teacher education through three innovative programmes of activities, including a one-year foundation year to prepare underrepresented groups to progress onto Initial Teacher Education degree courses and a significant school outreach programme, aiming to raise the academic and aspirational capabilities of students and teachers in DEIS schools.

The Froebel Department has engaged in the planning process for this initiative and will be key to the progression of the three core areas highlighted in the policy.

The Froebel Gift Award 2012 - 2018

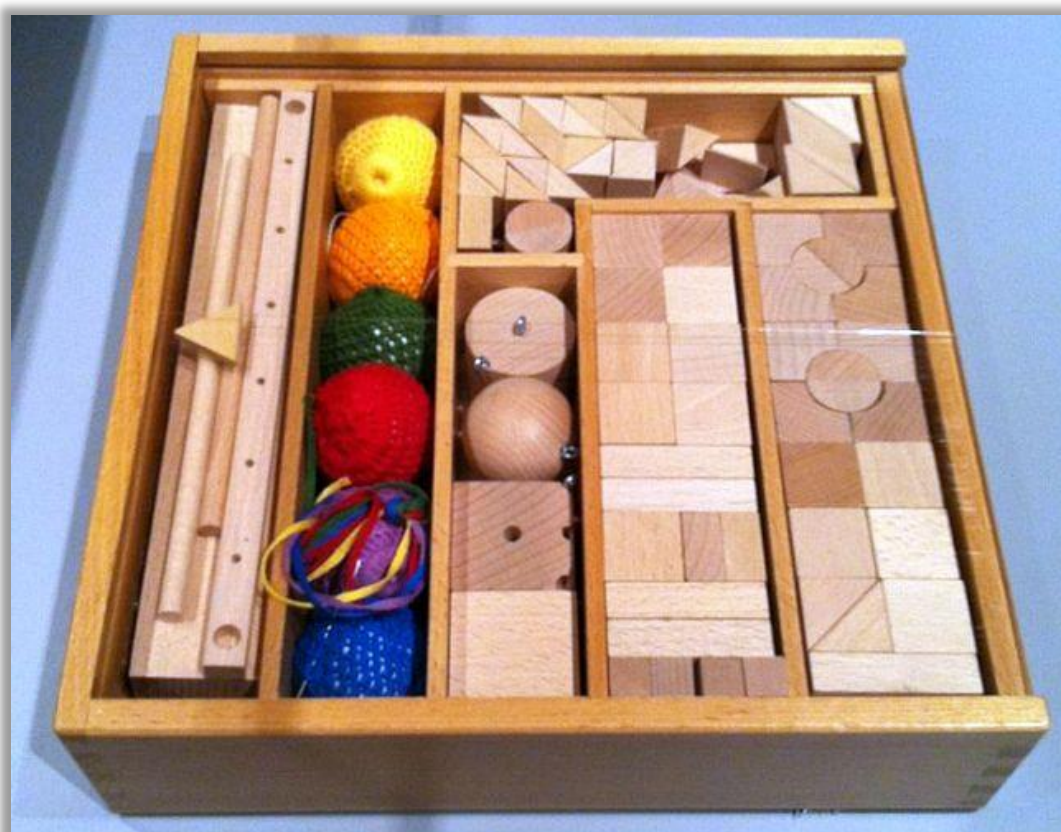
The Froebel Gift Award is an initiative to encourage reflection by students on the Froebel Gifts that an education based on the philosophies of Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852) may provide. An aim of this award is to extend and build upon the practice on School Placement, whilst promoting deeper understanding of key aspects of Froebelian theory. As we are the only college of education in Ireland which is dedicated to a specific educationalist, and are committed to promoting the philosophy of Friedrich Froebel, we introduced the concept to our graduating students in the academic year 2011-2012. Launched in 2012, this award is presented to one Year 4 and one Professional Masters student, based on their paper submission and Viva Voce interview. The award celebrates the legacy of Friedrich Froebel and is presented at the Maynooth University awards evening each year.



Awarding the Froebel Gift 2017: left to right Séamie Ó Néill, PMEd2 Sabina Carthy, Professor Philip Nolan, Year 4 Aileen Pettit, Katherine Lally.

Froebel Gift Award recipients 2012-2018

2012	H.Dip	Mairéad Hickey (2011-2012)
	B.Ed./JS	Sarah Martin (2009-2012. 3 year B.Ed. programme)
2013	H.Dip	Ciara Ryan (2012-2013)
	B.Ed./JS	No B.Ed. (Year 3/JS) award in 2013 - 4-year B.Ed introduced.
2014	H.Dip	Aoife Ní Mhaolmhuaidh (2013-2014)
	B.Ed.Y4	Aislinn Mythen (2010-2014)
2015	H.Dip	Sinéad Kehoe (2014-2015)
	B.Ed. Y4	Liana White (2011-2015)
2016	PMEd.2	Bróna Dunne (2014-2016)
	B.Ed. Y4	Alison Murphy (2012-2016)
2017	PMEd.2	Sabina Carthy (2015-2017)
	B.Ed.	Aileen Pettit (2013-2017)
2018	PMEd.2	Aly Egan (2016-2018)
	B.Ed.	Seán Stafford (2014-2018)



DICE updates – Aoife Titley

It has been a busy few months for DICE-related activities in the Froebel Department! Staff and students continue to live out their commitment to social and global justice issues through a range of formal and informal learning opportunities. Further information and photos can be found on our Twitter account - @MUFroebelDICE.

Visit to Black Lion Site



Many thanks to Ann and Donna O'Donnell who have brought our partnership with the Kildare Traveller Action Group to new levels this semester. In addition to amazing guest lectures in Visual Art and Sociology, we continued to work with local pupils through the Homework Club established by Y4 students. However, one of the most meaningful happened in April when Ann and Donn invited Y3 and PMEd2 students to visit the local site for a Traveller Culture Day. Women from the Primary Healthcare Project presented learning from their current work and research, and young Travellers were generous enough to share narratives of their educational experiences.

Ann and Donna also organised an exhibition of Traveller art, music and culture for us. We felt very privileged to participate in this cultural exchange and there is no doubt that it had a profound impact on how we will approach culturally responsive pedagogy from now on.

‘This unique experience gave us the chance to hear the stories, advice and aspirations from Travellers who live in the area. The relaxed atmosphere and stunning display of poems, pictures and embroidery created a thoroughly enjoyable experience for everyone involved’ (Amy McCabe, PMEd2).

We are also very grateful to Winnie Lawrence, who wrote a poem especially for the occasion and with her permission we share her work below:

*We may only come together once, in this lifetime,
Even though we are all completely different, yet in many ways we are still all the same.
Each person unique totally equal in God’s eyes, with many gifts and many talents.
That is a kindred part of our humanity.
We are people coming together many different branches from within life’s family tree.
Yet none of us are above each other.
For we are all on our own personal journey.
So let us all take a little time to reflect and remember
That no matter what walk of life that we come from, our culture our history should hold no
divide
As we are all united together to spend some short time in friendship and solidarity
Learning to accept and understand each other.
As to why they are so many different creeds and races -
that is all part of the human mystery, that builds up on the complete creation of Life.*

Drumming workshop



Dave, from *Jabba Jabba Jembe*, facilitated West African Drumming workshops with Y3 and PMEd2 students. Participants were encouraged to think of drumming like a language and learned various new percussion strategies for communication. Thanks to Gráinne Deery for organising!

‘Dave offered a high energy and interactive drumming circle for everyone involved. Any sign of stress from the Irish orals were soon forgotten as we created our own rhythms and sounds with the unique instruments. Not only an hour full of laughter and enjoyment but also an hour full of ideas to bring into the classroom’ (Amy McCabe, PMEd2)

Creating a Mandala



Giorgia and Aoife from PMEd1 organised and facilitated a highly creative Mandala workshop during Froebel Week. Students across different year groups came together to make a collaborative piece and learn more about this ritual from Hindu and Buddhist traditions. This exercise is a great collective activity and can be easily replicated in the primary school.

‘The workshop began with an introduction to mandalas which explained their origin, how they are made and their use. We then created a large Mandala covering the floor of the Drama Room using a variety of materials, beads, buttons, match sticks, and colourful wool. Everyone worked in small groups on a section of the mandala. We then stood back at the end to look at the finished piece, a beautiful and colourful mandala. A sweeping brush was then used to sweep the mandala away. This was done to express the underlying meaning of the mandala ceremony, that nothing is permanent’ (Ruth Scannell, Y2).

Swahili Workshops



Many thanks to Stephen Ng'ang'a who facilitated Swahili workshops with Y3 and Y4 during Froebel Week. Students were introduced to new phrases and approaches to language learning and were having full-on conversations by the end of the session. Hamjambo Stephen!

Food Sovereignty Festival



In April 2018, the Geography Department in MU organised the very first Festival of Food Sovereignty for the University. Activists, academics, and many different practitioners came together for a range of events which focused on food systems based on the principles of justice, democracy and ecological sustainability. Ten Froebel students volunteered to organise children's workshops on themes of ethical consumerism, food waste and climate justice. Children were supported to conduct an audit trail of the origins of their food, map the carbon footprint of where their food comes from, and commit to ethical consumerism through a range of actions and pledges

Irish Aid Workshops



Irish Aid is a long-time partner of the Froebel Department through its ongoing funding and support of the DICE Project. Its outreach workshops during Froebel Week are always an important part of its public information work and a reminder of Ireland's commitment to a world where human rights and human dignity are central to international development policy.

The aim of Irish Aid is to reduce poverty and hunger in African countries in greatest need by providing long-term sustainable development and humanitarian assistance. Focusing on the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development, students actively engaged in a group activity of what they hope the world will have more/less of in the year 2030. Through various hands-on activities, we gained an insight into the work of Irish Aid and broadened our knowledge on simple, child-friendly techniques to employ in a classroom when exploring the topic of human rights (Clodagh Talt, Y2).

DCU seminar on Assessment of Global Learning



In March 2018, the DICE Project asked Aoife Doyle, David Stokes and Fiona Cooney to act as student representatives to speak at a seminar in DCU about how development education is assessed in initial teacher education. Students spoke about how the varied approach to assessment within Froebel supports theory/ practice connections, encourages DICE work on placement and opens up space for creative approaches to complex issues. The seminar also included an input from the Education Research Centre about how global competence will be assessed through OECD PISA testing from 2018 onwards, so it was a great opportunity to profile the work of the Froebel Department in this regard.

Transitions in Education Event



In April 2018, students from the Froebel Department, the Department of Adult and Community Education Department, the Department of Education and the Department of Applied Social Studies came together for a collective conversation for the first time! The rationale for the event was that despite our shared professional interests and connections, we don't often have opportunities to share ideas, insights and practices from our own particular field. The theme for the conversation was 'Transitions in Education' and provided all involved the opportunity to share stories and experiences across the education continuum. Many thanks to Prof. Aislinn O'Donnell for organising the event and Dr. Katriona O'Sullivan for her input. We look forward to continuing the conversation next year!

[illegible]

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Upcoming events

DICE Video – Coming Soon!



Last month we turned SE007 into a film set for the day! Y4 students Aoife, David, Fiona and Shane were generous enough to share some of their reflections on camera about participating in DICE modules during their four years of the B.Ed. Keep an eye out on the Froebel Department website for the finished product which will be available soon!

Mosney Summer Camp



Building on the success of our inaugural activity camp during the mid-term break in 2017, we are delighted that the management of the Mosney Direct Provision centre have invited us back to facilitate a longer camp during the summer. Twenty students across different programmes and year groups have volunteered their time and are currently preparing a range of activities for the children of asylum seekers who live there. In addition to the usual sports, music and drama events, this summer we are also including a creative project with recyclable materials, Irish dancing workshops, science experiments and Irish language activities. Updates will be shared in next semester's *Machnamh*.
