



**Maynooth
University**
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

machnamh



Mí na Samhna 2019

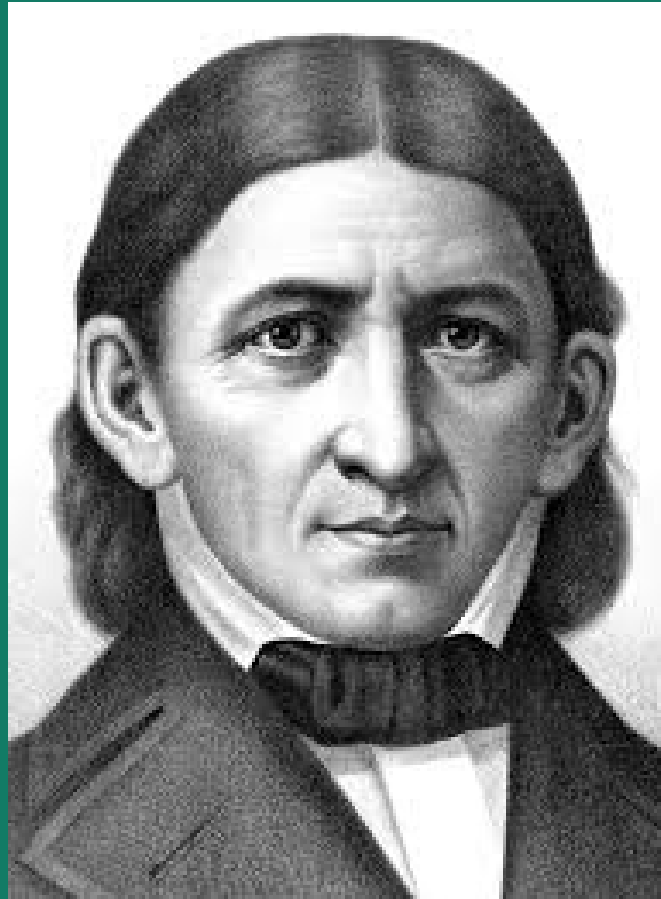


Issue 6



**Froebel Department of Primary
and Early Childhood Education**

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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Foreward

Marie McLoughlin

Fáilte romhaibh ar ais i ndiaidh Samhradh gnóthach anseo i Roinn Froebel, Ollscoil Mhá Nuad!

It is with great privilege that I welcome readers to the sixth edition of Froebel's newsletter Machnamh. In essence, Machnamh seeks to showcase and highlight the ongoing achievements and activities of staff and students alike. In documenting the internal and external developments of our thriving community, we strive to give readers a taste of the wealth of talents, discoveries and leadership to be found in the Froebel Department.

In this semester's issue, the broad range of contributions demonstrate the Department's aim of enhancing the sphere of education through various avenues. Particular highlights include: Máire's work on Douglas Hyde's American Journey, Laoise's research award win, and highlighting our student's curricular and extra-curricular involvements and achievements.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to each and every one of you who have contributed to this issue of Machnamh. The collaborative efforts allow for Machnamh's continued success - Ní neart go cur le chéile.

Marie McLoughlin
Head of Department

Preface and Acknowledgements

Adam Carroll

Welcome one and all to the seventh issue of Machnamh!

Since its conception, Machnamh has sought to become a focal point for celebrating the achievement of staff and students, as well as to act as a historical document recording the hectic daily life led by all in the Froebel Department.

It is with great pride that I present to you the third student-led publication of Machnamh. In prefacing this publication, I would like to acknowledge and thank Séamie O'Neill for presenting us with this venture into Dissolving Boundaries in Educational Leadership. It has proven to be an interesting journey of continual drafting, collaboration and overcoming various challenges.

Furthermore, we would like to thank each and every one of you that have contributed to this issue of Machnamh. This publication could not have been achieved without the diligence and professionalism conveyed by all involved.

Go raibh maith agaibh.

Adam Carroll

B.Ed Year 4

Staff Welcome - Annaick Farrell



Hello, my name is Annaick Farrell and I am so thrilled to be in Froebel while Katherine is temporarily away. I 'came up' through Froebel as a H.Dip student and learned so much under both Katherine and Laura so being given a chance to take part in Teacher Education is a welcome challenge at this stage of my career.

I studied History/Archaeology & History of Art & Architecture at TCD for my undergrad before I trained as a teacher, interrupting my formative travelling around the world with a Higher Diploma at Froebel, Blackrock and friends I made on the course remain some of the closest to this day. The bulk of my teaching has been in the incredible St Mark's JNS in Tallaght. I also have experience of multi-grade classrooms, in country/urban settings, Educate Together schools and in the UK system as well. I've developed an interest through work in SEN and EBD which have informed my continued professional education & development, allowing me to bring my experience and instinct as a teacher to balance my interest in Child Psychology.

As many of you may have noticed, I love the Arts in all its forms, Visual Art being a favourite and this again directed my interest into completing a Masters of Education at King's College, London in Education in Arts & Cultural Settings. I have worked on planning and delivering a variety of cultural events such as acting as Dublin Lead for Sofar Sounds, organizing pop-up music gigs, launching an Arts documentary for the Open University, coordinating an immersive arts event on Migration at the Design Museum and an evening music/drama performance at the British Museum for Refugee Week UK. Last year, I was Visual Arts Officer for First Fortnight, a nationwide Arts Festival centred on Mental Health, Suicide Awareness and Homelessness.

Staff Welcome - Annaick Farrell

It is not simply participatory arts that interests me however; I am the proud owner of a myriad of (sometimes only partially) completed art projects and enjoy making and creating in my own time as well.

Other areas of particular interest for me include yoga and meditation, the neuroscience behind 'Flow State' and the potential to harness this for creative and educational purposes. I feel passionately about Inclusion and Sustainability in Education and I also love books. Lots and lots of books.

I wrote my thesis on primary data research I generated by conducting a pilot of an arts programme that introduced mindfulness through short-medium interventions which I designed, using Art, Music, English & Movement (Dance/Yoga/Pranayama). I have presented work at Feilte, in Teachmeets and at the Mindfulness in Schools conference in London 2016.

Being a Froebel teacher has been central to how I think of teaching and of myself as an educator. I have tried and tested the approaches and believe the underpinning ideas that inform Froebelian philosophy are not simply an effective framework to teach within; I think that Froebel's approaches are crucial to the preparation of younger generations for a marketplace that values creativity and innovation as paramount and for jobs many of which have not, as yet, been defined or invented. While my instincts may be Froebelian when it comes to teaching in the primary classroom, it is such a boon to return to Froebel and discuss motivations and philosophies for teaching with colleagues and students alike, teaching me all the while



Annaick has already applied the Froebellian Approach to her lectures with the First Years. Here, they can be seen using Maynooth's scenic campus as stimulus for the exploration of tone, colour, and perspective.

Student Welcomes

From all here in the Froebel Department, we would like to give a warm welcome to our new B.Ed and PMEd students. We wish hope you enjoy your time here in Froebel!



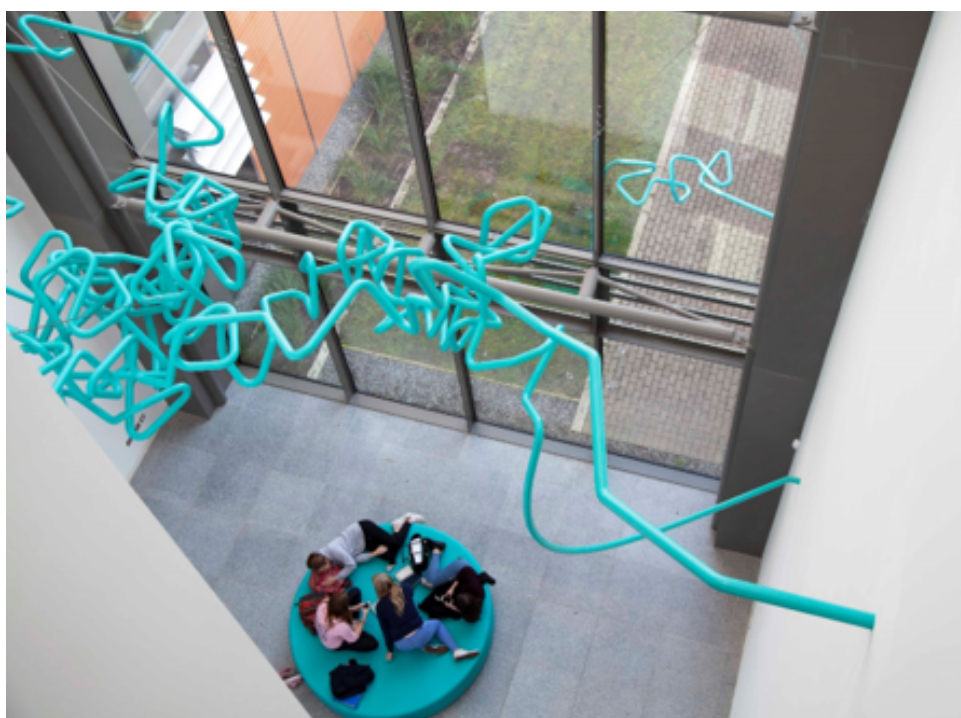
Pictured are the new B.Ed Year 1 Group



Pictured are the new PMEd Year 1 Group

'The Scribble' Launched

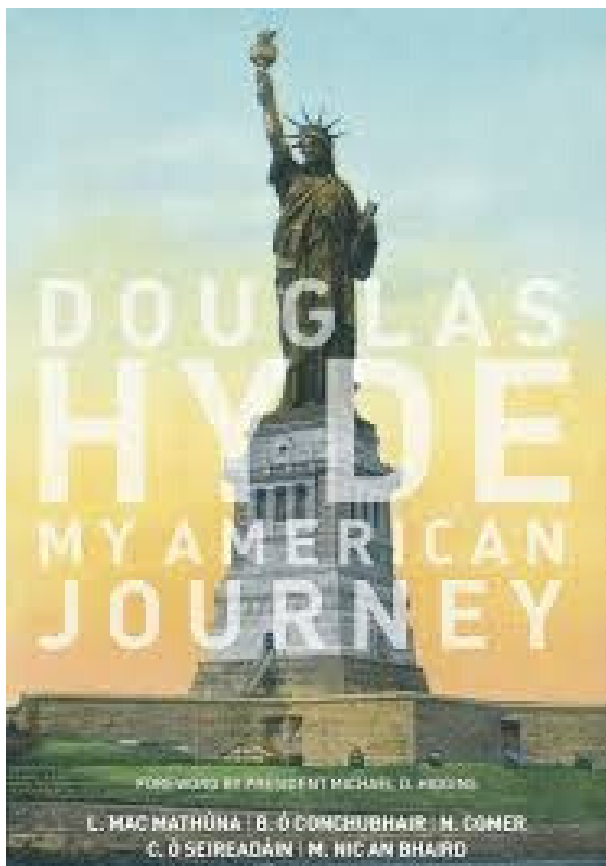
The Scribble sculpture by Irish artist Rhona Byrne was formally launched in the School of Education at Maynooth University.



The site-specific art work explores the complexities of learning processes and pathways. It expresses the energy and motion of neural networks, discovery, making connections, getting into knots and having breakthroughs.

Douglas Hyde's American Journey

Máire Nic An Bhaird



Douglas Hyde: My American Journey was edited by Liam Mac Mathúine, Niall Comer, Cuan Ó Seireadáin, Brian Ó Conchubhair and Máire Nic an Bhaird. Máire's interest and research into the life and work of Ireland's first President culminated in a collaboration with her fellow editors. Máire conducts archival research with a keen interest in the social behaviour of Douglas Hyde. This publication, edited by

Máire and her co-editors, is a bilingual edition of journal and diary entries which was first published in the Irish language in 1937. This is a compelling first-hand account of Douglas Hyde's successful seven-month fundraising odyssey through the United States. Readers can chart Hyde's journey and thoughts in the original Irish, accompanied by a faithful translation in English. The dollars Hyde raised in the United States contributed to hiring and training Irish-language teachers. Funds also helped to sustain the cultural revolution, which, in turn, would give rise to the political uprising from which Irish sovereignty has flowed. Punctuated with valuable and entertaining pen pictures of prominent figures in US history, postcards he sent to his children. Máire and her co-editors are delighted with a wonderful introduction by President Michael D. Higgins.

Laoise wins Postgraduate Research Award



Laoise Ní Chléirigh won the Maynooth University Postgraduate Research Impact Award organised by the Graduate Studies Office. President Philip Nolan presented her with her award on Friday 25th October 2019.

This award highlights Laoise's achievements during her doctoral studies. She disseminated the work of the EU Project - The AgroCycle Project for a Circular Economy in schools both in Ireland and China. The content focused on the concept of a circular economy, sustainability and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The theoretical framework of this research was Froebelian Ecofeminist Philosophy and highlighted particularly, the modernity and relevance of Froebel's principles in environmental sustainable development education today.

Tríona gets Research Funding



Dr Tríona Stokes, Maynooth University Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood, has been granted research funding from Creative Ireland through the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

The study will result in a report which presents principles of practice for promoting play and creativity through arts facilitation in early years settings.

The research will focus on the 0-3 age group and will inform the design of a Continuing Professional Development programme, due to be implemented in the Early Childhood sector in 2020.

Patsy's Presentation



Patsy Stafford of the Froebel Department recently presented at the Second National Literacy and Numeracy in Farmleigh

House. The official opening of the forum was performed by Minister of Education, Joe McHugh. In a very well-received presentation, Patsy reminded the audience that we need to see young children as capable learners and enable them to engage in complex maths. She highlighted a strong research base to demonstrate the importance of play-based learning and mathematical language development in the early years.

4th European Conference on Curriculum Studies

The European Association of Curriculum Studies was established in 2013 as an organisation for forwarding curriculum studies in Europe. The 4th European Conference on Curriculum Studies took place in Maynooth in June 2019. The theme of the conference was Curriculum: Origins, Trajectories and Practices.

As part of the conference, Séamie Ó Néill presented a paper on the Emergence of Teacher Agency in Teaching Council Policy in Ireland.

Eddie Costello and Patsy Stafford also presented at the conference. They presented on prospective primary school teachers (PST) knowledge of operations with fractions. This research is relevant because it provides crucial data which will inform the design and delivery of mathematics courses within initial teacher education programmes. The findings highlighted important deficits within PST knowledge of fractions, which are consistent with larger international studies in the area.

Arne Nixon Center Research Fellowship



Earlier this year, Dr Patricia Kennon won the Arne Nixon Center Research Fellowship for her project on the representation of asexuality in contemporary young-adult fiction. As part of this project, she conducted archival research at the Arne Nixon Center for the

Study of Children's Literature, California State University, Fresno. With an emphasis on diversity, the Center's holdings include the largest LGBTQIA+ collection of books for young people in the United States of America.

Dr. Kennon has also received the 2019 Kenneth and Sylvia Marantz Fellowship for Picturebook Research. She will be studying the potential of historical picturebooks as aids for teaching historical concepts in preschool and elementary education. Dr Kennon's project explores how picturebooks set in the past can cultivate children's metacognition. As part of this fellowship, she will be conducting archival research at the Marantz Picturebook Collection for the Study of Picturebook Art, Kent State University, Ohio, USA.

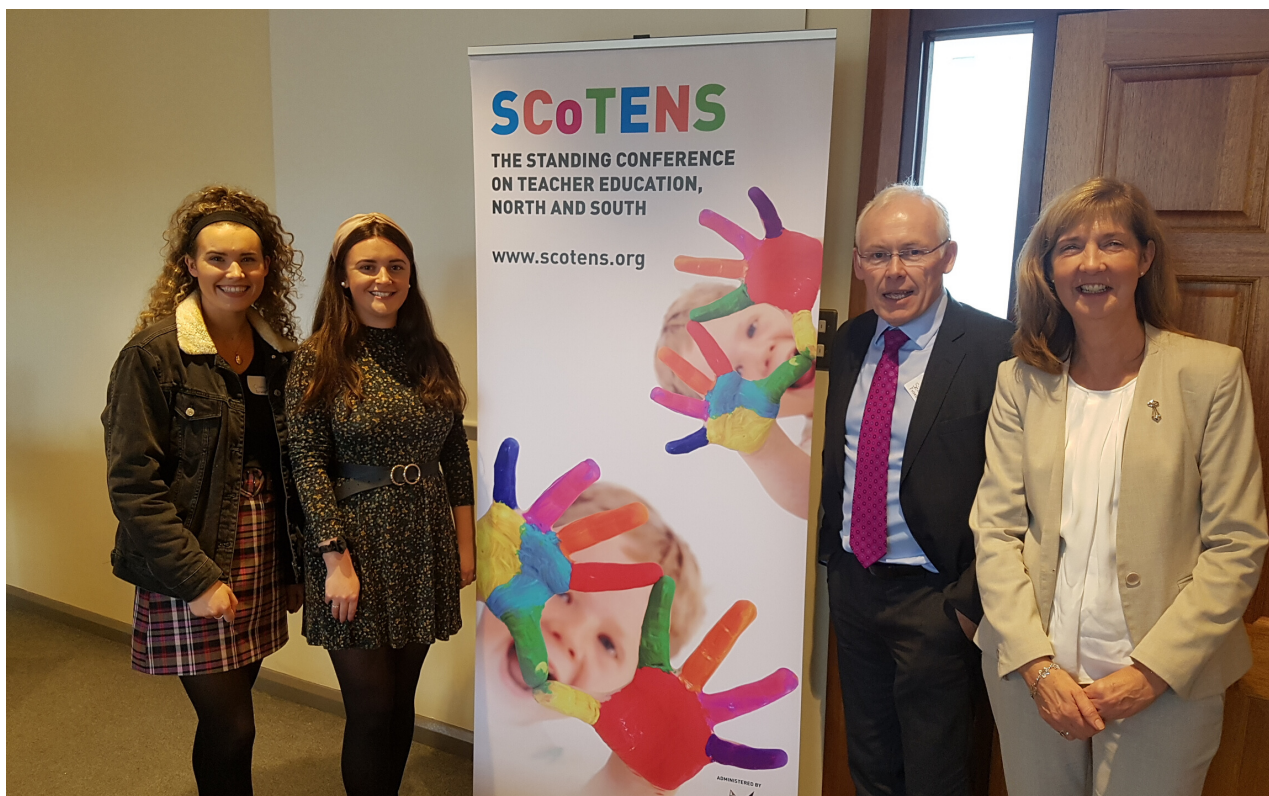
Fourth Year Students Present at Intercultural Education TeachMeet in DCU.



(L-R) Lauren O'Donnell, Martha Solan, and Eva Cullen

Research shows that there is a big disconnect between the theory and practice of intercultural education in Irish schools. In addition to an overloaded curriculum, a lot of primary teachers lack the confidence to address intercultural issues in an explicit way in the classroom. As a result, we felt it was important to look at issues of cultural representation and cultural diversity as part of our action research projects. The TeachMeet in DCU seemed like a great opportunity to present some of our preliminary plans for the classroom and to meet other teachers who are interested in similar issues. The DICE modules that we have completed provided a stimulus for us to begin thinking critically about how various cultures are represented in schools. The DICE module also gave us inspiration for ideas and methodologies that we could use in the classroom as part of our action research projects

North-South Student Teacher Exchange



(L-R) Ciara O'Reardon, Maire Carey, Seamie O'Neill, Claire Connolly.

The North South Student Teacher Exchange has been running since 2003. This project is funded by the Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South (SCoTENS) and managed by the Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS) in Armagh, in partnership with the participating colleges.

The project is run by a steering group drawn from the CCBS and the colleges of education. Two Froebel B Ed Year 3 students, Ciara O'Reardon and Marie Carey, will undertake a three week school placement in Belfast in November. The main aim of the programme is to increase students' cultural sensitivity by engaging educationally and socially with other students, teachers and pupils in a cross-border, cross-community context on the island of Ireland.

Sports Ability Day



On the 28th of September, a group of volunteers from Froebel partook in the Sports Ability Day at the Phoenix Sports Centre run by the Kildare Sports Partnership. The event was open to people of all ages who had an interest in sports for all abilities. It was an opportunity for people, especially children, to try free sessions of different inclusive sports. The Froebel volunteers assisted in the chaperoning of different events such as a sensory room, boccia, tag rugby, wheelchair rugby, powerchair football, badminton and rowing.

Patrick Monahan, who recently reached the qualifiers of the Tokyo Paralympic Games, and 2-time Special Olympic medalist in Equestrian, Conor Byrne, were in attendance. There were also sports teams from all around the country there looking for some new sports stars. They acted as amazing role models for the younger children. The event was the first of its kind in Kildare and after the success of this year's event, we hope it will continue to grow.

Sorcha sa Spáinn! Erasmus 2019



Sorcha Ní Chionnaith is ainm dom agus táim ag staidéar in Barcelona faoi láthair mar chuid den scéim Erasmus. Ní mór dom a rá go bhfuil aimsir den scoth againn anseo! Tá sé thar a bheith suimiúil eolas faoi chóras oideachais na Spáinne a fhoghlaim trí mo chuid léachtaí agus rudaí nua a fhoghlaim gur féidir liom a úsáid nuair a bheidh mé amuigh sna scoileanna ag obair mar mhúinteoir. Is aoibhinn liom páirt a ghlacadh sa chúlúir agus teanga nua a fhoghlaim chomh maith. Táim ag baint an-sult as m'am anseo agus mholfaínn do chuile dhuine cuairt a thabhairt ar Barcelona!

All-Ireland Champion - Laura Doherty



On the 8th of September 2019, I was part of the Westmeath Camogie team that won the All Ireland Intermediate Camogie Final in Croke Park against Galway by 2 points. Being down by 7 points at half time, made this win even sweeter. It was the first time for Westmeath to win the Intermediate Division and progress to Senior within just 2 years after winning the Premier Junior in 2017. It was an historic occasion. Our captain Mairead McCormack accepted the Jack McGrath cup from Catherine Neary, the president of the Camogie Association.

To finish off the year, I received my 2nd Soaring Star in City West Hotel in Dublin from the Camogie Association for my performance throughout the year.

Gaeilge sa Roinn Froebel - Colleen Fraher agus Mairéad Malone

Tá sprioc ollmhór againn sa Roinn i mbliana. Táimid ag iarraidh an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn sa Roinn trí 'Preab Caife' agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh Podcast ann freisin i mbliana. Tharla an preab caife faoi dhó i mbliana ag an bpointe seo agus d'éirigh leis!

Cad atá i gceist? Bhuel, ní chaithfidh ach an Ghaeilge a labhairt agus is féidir tae, caife agus bríoscaí a thógáil. Amach anseo leis, le gach cúpán caife nó tae, gheobhaidh tú frása a mbeadh oiriúnach don Ghaeilge neamhfhoirmiúil sa seomra ranga mar tá an sprioc ná go mbeadh daoine níos compórdaí ag labhairt an Ghaeilge agus go háirithe an Ghaeilge sa Roinn seo.

Ar nóta deireanach, beidh an 'Preab Caife' ar siúl gach Déardaoin ag a haon chun seans a thabhairt ar gach duine teacht muna bhfuil tú ag dul go tae agus plé!

Froebel-HOPE Partnership

The Froebel-HOPE Partnership is in its 12th year this year. Recently, Geeta from HOPE Kolkata came to visit an elective group. Other recent activity, in aid of the Froebel-HOPE Partnership has been a bake sale and a table-quiz, organised by the 2019/20 Froebel Society.



Froebel Society 2019/20



Pictured are the Froebel Society 2019/20. The society is comprised of the following students:

Evelyn - President

Michael - Vice-President

Colleen - Events Officer

Gabrielle - Events Officer

Orla - Treasurer

Grace - Networking

Amy - Secretary

Daniel - PRO

Alumni Catchup - Seán Hehir

Congratulations to Seán Hehir, Froebel Graduate, on posting a Personal Best time of 2:16:02 in this year's Dublin City Marathon.



Alumni Catchup - Pádraig Walsh

Congratulations to Pádraig Walsh, Froebel Graduate, who was named at centre-back at this year's PwC Hurling All-Stars. His fellow Kilkenny team-mates, TJ Reid and Colin Fennelly were also named in the team.

