



Science Newsletter –May 2008 Edition

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Upcoming Events

Monday 23rd June - Thursday 26th June 2008; Primary Schools Science Summer School.

Sentinus Engineering In Education Program Celebration Day.

The Education Engineering Scheme introduces Year 13 pupils to the world of engineering via a programme of joint projects between the participating school and sponsoring industrial companies. Our industrial link was with Derry City Council and our Link Engineer was Mr Leo Strawbridge. Our project involved the design of a central collection system for waste motor vehicle oil at Skeoge Depot.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to attend the final Celebration Day at Queens University Belfast on Wednesday 9th April 2008. Dr Martin Brown of Sentinus offered to bring assessors to our school so that our four students could deliver their final report and PowerPoint presentation. This was a very entertaining and relaxed event and most importantly, students Ethna, Natalie, James and Stephen scored very highly in the rating of their report. Well done!!!

A big thank you to Dr Martin Brown for coming all the way from Belfast and to Derry City Council Engineers for making the completion of this project possible. Thank you all for attention to detail and all the gems of wisdom imparted to pupils.

The Flight Experience Centenary Challenge.



This competition, which is part of Bombardier Aerospace's calendar of events to celebrate one hundred years of achievement in aviation, took place in W5

on Wednesday 15th May 2008. Lumen Christi College was represented by two year 9 pupils, Meghan and Niall Doherty. They were challenged to design, build and fly a self-propelled model aircraft.

They had to use recyclable, everyday objects, such as balsa wood, paperclips, paper and elastic bands.

Teams were judged on construction, flight and livery.

Meghan and Niall scored very highly and their science teacher is very proud of them. Well done!

The Big Bug Hunt



This was an ideal opportunity to observe wildlife right on our doorstep. Primary school pupils spent a day chasing insects and hunting for mini beasts in the greenery and ponds at Creggan Country Park, on 16th May 2008.

In the park students became Pond Dippers and Mini Beast Hunters. Once the fundamentals of safe pond dipping and bug hunting were explained to pupils, supervised groups set off to various locations within the park.

The Pond Dippers learnt about water as an eco-system, catching beasts and putting them into trays ready for identification.

Children on the bug hunt in habitats such as grasslands and forestry learnt why camouflage is necessary in predator/prey relationships and were able to identify bugs with the KEYS provided.

The weather was glorious and a thoroughly relaxing day was enjoyed by all.

A special thank you to Karen Healy, Environmental Officer at Creggan Country Park, for the preparation of materials and organisation on the day. We could not have done this without you Karen.

Also, a big thank you to all the Science teachers for supervision on the day and to the staff and pupils of visiting primary schools.

Schools involved were Fountain, Lisnagelvin, Longtower, Nazareth House and Bunscoil Colmchille Primary Schools.

EEST Training Day



Getting emotional about science

An EEST training day for science staff took place on Thursday 29th May 2008 and was delivered by Mr Paul mc Croy of 'Think Differently'. This was also attended by teachers from Saint Patrick's & Saint Brigid's College, Claudy.

This was a course exploring ways to emotionally engage pupils in science. It allowed teachers to explore and practice a wide range of presentation techniques to engage their pupils.

Thank you kindly Paul for such an inspiring day.

Video Conferencing

Year 9 pupils were able to participate in face to face visual and audio contact with their counterparts in St Mary's College, Derry. The video conference link took place on Tuesday 26th May 2008.

Our pupils presented the findings of their 'Colour Chaos' project that they had produced during National Science and Engineering Week.

Pupils had been concerned about presentation skills as this was a 'first' for them. They need not have worried as they were brilliant on the day. They remained calm, competent and pleasant throughout.

Well done!

A big thank you to all student presenters and to Mrs A Blanking, Mr D Goddard and students from St Mary's College.