

Liam Neeson backs parent power

integrate
mySchool.com

Liam Neeson is helping tell parents about an initiative which puts integrated education within reach for nearly every school in Northern Ireland. Liam has released a powerful video message of support for the IEF's *Integrate My School* campaign.

The video can be found at www.integratemyschool.com where parents are invited to register their support confidentially for bringing integration to their school.

The Hollywood star and IEF supporter tells parents about the possibility for almost any school in Northern Ireland to become integrated, if parents want it. Liam Neeson says

"We look to our children for the future, so why do we continue to educate them apart: different religions, different backgrounds, different schools? There is another way. Most people agree that educating children together is a better way forward for our society. It's time to turn our aspiration into reality, to believe in your children and believe in their future."

Launched during the Assembly election campaign, Liam's video achieved more than twice as many Facebook views in two days as any NI political party video had achieved in a week! In the same period, the video also received more views per day on YouTube than any NI party election broadcast. Parents representing more than a hundred schools in Northern Ireland engaged with the site in the first few weeks of the campaign.

If a minimum of 20% of parents at a school express an interest in integration, the school's Board of Governors has to put the matter to the whole school for consultation. The possibility is open to all schools except Special Schools and hospital schools. Find out more at www.integratemyschool.com

You can support the *Integrate My School* campaign by sharing the news with your friends and on Facebook and Twitter.

The campaign is funded by the generosity of IEF donors and by the Department of Education.



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Integration campaigner honoured

Congratulations to one of integrated education's stalwarts, Margaret Marshall, who has been awarded the British Empire Medal "for services to Integrated Education in Northern Ireland".

Margaret played a pivotal role in the establishment of Millennium Integrated Primary School, a school which has gone from strength to strength due to parental demand in its local community. Through her tireless work, Margaret has represented the views and been the voice of many parents who wish their children to attend an integrated school.

Margaret is also a keen and loyal fundraiser for the IEF and we extend our warmest congratulations on this richly deserved honour.



Senior students at Lagan College which will expand its sixth form from September

Integrated schools will grow to meet demand

Congratulations to four integrated schools which have been told that they can increase their pupil population and meet demand for integrated education in their area. The Department of Education has approved development proposals from Lagan, Parkhall and Hazelwood Integrated Colleges and Killyleagh Integrated Primary School.

The expansion of these schools means more places in integrated settings for children of all ages from pre-school to post-GCSE.

Lagan College will be able to increase its intake at 6th form, allowing more students to continue at the school for A-levels and equivalent qualifications.

Parkhall Integrated College is to establish a 6th form for the first time from September 2017, or as soon afterwards as possible. After several years operating over a split site, the college is to move into a new building in the autumn and is keen to work collaboratively

with neighbouring Antrim Grammar School to offer a full range of subjects to post-16 students.

The development at Hazelwood IC will see the College increase its admissions to Year 8 by 20 pupils, eventually bringing the total enrolment to 1100.

The Department has also approved Killyleagh Integrated Primary School's proposal to open a 26-place nursery. The nursery will operate part-time, offering funded places, and providing much-needed local pre-school education.

Peter Weir views Fresh Start on building site for Drumlins IPS

Staff and pupils of Drumlins Integrated Primary School welcomed then Education Minister Peter Weir MLA in November to view progress on their new building and hold a special sod cutting ceremony. Everyone is hoping to move into the new school, in the centre of Ballynahinch, in September.

The school has spent more than ten years in temporary accommodation and during this time has grown from an initial 12 children to more than 180 pupils in P1 to P7.

Many IEF supporters, including the Australian Ireland Fund and Sir Warwick Fairfax Trust, the Irish American Partnership and the Turnaround Foundation, have been significant supporters of Drumlins throughout its development.

After touring the new site, the Minister travelled to the existing school where he was entertained by the school choir and met IEF donor, Terry Cross. Terry supported the development of Drumlins IPS by providing additional accommodation for learning support.



Drumlins IPS pupils with Principal Janice Marshall (left) and Peter Weir MLA (fourth from left)

Editorial



Tina Merron, Chief Executive, IEF

We were pleased to be able to read, at last, the report from the Independent Review of Integrated Education in March. The review panel has echoed the IEF's calls for a commitment to actively planning for integrated education in Northern Ireland. The public demand for places must be met.

The Fund was also glad to see that our call for proper community consultation when planning education delivery is reflected in the panel's recommendation 12: "That a stakeholder engagement strategy for Area Planning is

developed with a specific focus on how planning authorities engage with local communities around innovative integrated, jointly managed and shared options."

The review also recommends strengthening and supporting the transformation process, for schools wishing to become formally integrated.

The report also throws out a few challenges, however: fundamental questions regarding the nature and role of integrated education in Northern Ireland today. The panel suggests reviewing both the legal definition of the term "integrated" education and also the current religious balance which is set as a target for integrated schools. The Integrated Education Movement needs to reflect on the way integrated schools are developing and should take the lead in framing a plan of action which recognises the changing face of Northern Ireland, remains true to the founding ethos, and honours the work of existing integrated schools over more than three decades.

It is crucial that stakeholders and supporters of integrated education monitor and scrutinise government response to this important report. We will play our role in reminding ministers and decision-makers of the need to act on it. Successive surveys have shown public demand for developing the provision of integrated education; actions which make the integrated experience accessible to everyone who wants it would show that the public voice has been heard.

Bill Brown

The Integrated Education Fund was saddened to learn of the death in December of Reverend Bill Brown.

Bill was one of the movers and shakers of the Integrated Education Movement from the earliest days of All Children Together. A Presbyterian Minister, he had become an advisor on religious education to the South Eastern Education and Library Board. In November 1974 he was one of the speakers at an ACT conference entitled "Interdenominational Schools: why? how? and the way ahead". Bill addressed the conference on the theme 'Two cultures, one people' and called for a complete review of Northern Ireland's education system. He remained committed and stalwart in his support for the Movement's vision and later served on the board of NICIE.

We extend condolences to Bill's family and friends on their loss and feel grateful for the years of support he gave to integrated education in Northern Ireland.

Independent panel lists measures to grow integration

On 02 March, the Independent Review of Integrated Education (IRIE) report was published. The Review was instigated by previous Education Minister John O'Dowd and the report, entitled *Integrating Education in Northern Ireland: Celebrating Inclusiveness and Fostering Innovation in our Schools*, was released by outgoing Minister Peter Weir. The report contains 39 recommendations for developing and supporting the growth of integrated education in NI, covering changes to the law as well as improvements in policy and processes relating to education. The recommendations include reconsidering the official definition of the term "integrated education" and extending the current legal duty to "encourage and facilitate" the development of integrated education to include a requirement to "promote" the model.

The 130-page report, produced by Colm Cavanagh and Dr Margaret Topping, was submitted to the Department last November. In their introductory "letter to the Minister" the authors say

"We submit these proposals in the certain knowledge that understanding and friendship across our community divisions [are] strengthened by our young people going together to school; and that offering parents this choice is in everyone's interest."

The report is critical of the slow growth of integrated education, pointing out that there is no dedicated planning authority to develop the model.

The review also calls for better information and support for schools exploring transformation to integration. It suggests any school could apply for a new "Opening and Welcoming" kitemark, to help all sectors develop a more inclusive ethos and nurture diversity in the classroom.

It will fall to the next Education Minister to respond to the report, and the IEF and the wider Integrated Education Movement will monitor developments with interest.

You can read the full report and the list of recommendations on the Department of Education website: www.education-ni.gov.uk

It is now up to the government and the Department of Education to act on the Independent Review



International support for Cranmore IPS leads to a new nursery unit

Congratulations to Cranmore IPS preschool which has been granted statutory nursery status from September!

The pre-school was opened in 2003 to offer integrated provision to younger children. In 2015, with generous help from integrated education supporter Kevin Curley of the American Ireland Fund and the IEF, Cranmore IPS was able to open new purpose-built pre-school accommodation designed to meet the Department of Education's requirement for nurseries.

In December last year, Education Minister Peter Weir MLA approved the establishment of a nursery unit offering 26 funded part-time places at Cranmore IPS, creating additional nursery places for the local community.

Welcoming the good news, Principal William Doherty said

"We are delighted and very excited about the nursery; we've been seeking this development for a long time and we're grateful to all those who have supported us including Kevin Curley and our friends at the IEF. Our pre-school playgroup has an excellent reputation and we are confident that we can build on this foundation into the future."



Baroness May Blood (in the driving seat!) with John Fitzpatrick (back, right), Acting Principal Siobhan Taggart and Omagh IPS pupils at the building site

Flying visit to celebrate start of new build for Omagh IPS

The Campaign Chair of the IEF, Baroness May Blood, was joined by a high-flying Irish American VIP at the site of the future Omagh Integrated Primary School and Children's Centre on 24 February.

John Fitzpatrick, hotelier and Chair of the Ireland Funds, flew in via helicopter especially to join May and help officially launch work on the site. The Omagh IPS community is looking forward to a new 14-classroom school and nursery and also a children's centre. The children's centre will offer a voluntary pre-school playgroup, a breakfast club and an after-school service, and will be provided thanks to donations through the Friends of Omagh IPS, the IEF and from the Eithne and Paddy Fitzpatrick Memorial Fund, established in memory of John Fitzpatrick's parents. The primary school and nursery buildings are funded by the Department of Education.

Acting Principal Siobhán Taggart was accompanied by pupils, parents, staff and governors (past and present) to welcome May and John and thank them for helping make the plans for a new build become reality.

Omagh IPS opened in 1990, thanks to a group of pioneering parents. The school now has an enrolment of more than 300 pupils.

Enniskillen IPS welcomes Secretary of State and former First Minister

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, James Brokenshire MP, and the then First Minister, Arlene Foster MLA, visited Enniskillen Integrated Primary School just before Christmas to learn about the exciting plans for its expansion. Enniskillen will be one of the integrated schools to benefit from the first tranche of funding made available through the Fresh Start Agreement.

During a tour of the school's current facilities, the visitors heard how the funds will support the school's development, which will include several additional classrooms and a new sports hall. The guests also had time to enjoy the nativity play performed by the pupils.

Enniskillen IPS was established by a group of local parents who formed Enniskillen Together in the wake of the Enniskillen Remembrance Day bomb. The school opened in September 1989 with 65 children and for its first year it was completely funded through charitable support. The school has gone from strength to strength and now has almost 400 pupils.

The IEF has helped to fund the expansion of Enniskillen IPS by providing an additional classroom and supporting the extension of pre-school provision to help meet growing parental demand.

Secretary of State, James Brokenshire MP, and Arlene Foster MLA, with Enniskillen IPS pupils



Back to school for AlumNI group with inspiring message

Students at nine integrated colleges have been enjoying workshops run by members of Integrated AlumNI, the network of past pupils from integrated schools.

The unique initiative, now in its second year, is called 'Back to School' and brought a range of activities and discussion to integrated college pupils across Northern Ireland in February. The main topics were options for the future and the network of contacts ready to help young adults as they enter the world of further and higher education or work.

Integrated AlumNI unites former pupils and other supporters of integrated education who are keen to raise their voices and advocate for integrated education in Northern Ireland. Through support from the IEF, together with the Open Society Foundations, there are now active groups in Belfast, London, Liverpool, and Edinburgh, and developments are under way for further groups in Manchester, Dublin and Derry/Londonderry. The Belfast Trust for Integrated Education (BELTIE) are also generously supporting the development of the Belfast group.



AlumNI group with students and staff at Sperrin IC

After delivering a workshop at Sperrin Integrated College, the school's former Head Boy David Keenan said

"Positive engagement with past pupils can really raise aspirations for current students. This programme is a great way of showing young people what possibilities lie ahead, and reassuring them that mentoring and support are available."

It is free to join Integrated AlumNI; contact the group through hello@integratedalumni.org

North Coast IC welcomes Brian and Susan to celebrate students' success

The school community at North Coast Integrated College welcomed special guests to their prize-giving last October: IEF Campaign Council member Brian Dickie and his wife Susan.

The Dickies are long-standing supporters of integrated schools including Mill Strand, Windmill and Crumlin Integrated Primaries.

As a very successful international businessman, Brian shared three guiding principles with the prize winners and guests at North Coast IC

Principal Paul Mullan (2nd left) with Brian and Susan Dickie (3rd and 4th left), parents and students at North Coast IC

"Be curious: it is important to wonder and question the world around us; take a chance: it is important to aim high and go out of your comfort zone; and finally be committed: it is important to follow all things through to their conclusion."

He added

"The students of North Coast Integrated College are very privileged to attend such a school, which is celebrating fantastic results this year. The staff and students enjoy the true meaning of a shared education on a daily basis."

Originally from Dungannon but now living in London, Brian Dickie returned to his Northern Ireland roots to visit the college, which this year celebrates its 20th anniversary.



Rapid progress at Malone IC brings rewards for Aisha

Malone College are delighted with the success of pupil Aisha MohamadAlnajjar which was highlighted in an item on BBC Radio Ulster in March. Aisha fled the war in Syria and arrived in Belfast in December 2015. Aisha spoke no English, but 12 months later she achieved an 'A' grade in her GCSE Science module. Aisha attended English and Science revision classes and the hard work paid off. She seems to be well on course for achieving her ambition of becoming a doctor. Amongst the pupils at Malone, 24 different languages are spoken, with newcomer pupils representing a quarter of the school population.

New-Bridge IC is excellently integrated

The community at New-Bridge Integrated College welcomed Roisin Marshall, NICIE CEO, on Friday 10 February when she arrived to present the school with the prestigious Excellence in Integrated Education Award (EIEA). The aim of the award is to demonstrate how schools live up to the integrated ethos in all strands of school life. EIEA accreditation celebrates and endorses good practice, and creates a shared identity for integrated schools.

The application process was intensive and two external assessors interviewed staff, parents and pupils to ensure criteria were met and evidence presented. As part of the assessment process, New-Bridge Integrated College had to organise a 'showcase' day to demonstrate to the assessors how integration is embedded within the fabric of the school.

Texas golfers support integrated education at annual 'Shamrock Shootout'.

The IEF's Brian Small (Fundraising Manager) flew to Dallas Texas in October last year to take part in the Shamrock Shootout Golf Invitational. This charity tournament was founded in 1992 by IEF supporter Kevin M Curley and the IEF has been honoured and grateful for the money raised for integrated education, and Cranmore Integrated Primary in particular, in recent years.

The 2016 golf tournament brought together more than 70 keen golfers who enjoyed a great day in aid of the IEF.

Brian thanked all players for their continuing generosity, especially Kevin Curley, a Director of the American Ireland Fund, who has raised about a quarter of a million dollars for the IEF over the years.

The IEF's Brian Small (l) with supporter and keen golfer Pat O'Brien



The future is in your hands

About 17 years ago, I was one of a group of impassioned, pioneering parents wanting integrated education. We overcame political obstacles and vested interests, met financial challenges, navigated policy and law, and today Sperrin Integrated College in Magherafelt has more than 520 pupils.

We opened in mobiles but, with more campaigning, we got a building fit for purpose, educating children and employing adults from across the local community.

It is still in the hands of parents to bring integrated education to their area. However, the path can be much smoother than ours: the option to develop an existing school into an integrated school is there for all sectors except Special Schools and hospital schools. It only takes parents to raise their voices.

This possibility has existed for years: the legislation and process were laid down as foundations for growing integrated education in 1989. But, despite a statutory duty to develop integrated education, the government and the Department of Education have been apparently reluctant to promote the process, officially called "transformation", to parents.

In 2013, 79% of parents surveyed said they would back their own school becoming integrated. However, few knew this was possible – although the move can, in fact, be initiated by parents and certainly can't happen without them.

The IEF has devised a way to empower parents. The *Integrate My School* website, launched by



supporter Liam Neeson, enables parents to raise their voices and register support for bringing integration to their school.

Think about it: a good school, with accommodation and staff already in place, can add value and welcome all sections of the local community. It can develop into a space where diversity is celebrated and identity openly explored, discussed and nurtured.

Beginning the process of bringing children together within schools need not rely on politicians or government departments; it is in the hands of parents and schools and can begin right away. It only takes parents to show their interest and the wheels of change can start to turn.

Anna Clarke

Drumlins IPS head speaks at House of Lords

Janice Marshall, principal of Drumlins Integrated Primary School, has told an audience of distinguished guests at the House of Lords that the success of her school owes much to determined campaigners and loyal supporters. The primary school in Ballynahinch has grown from small beginnings to become the most over-subscribed primary school in the area.

Janice addressed around 100 guests at a dinner hosted by our Campaign Chair, Baroness May Blood, on 07 November last year. The dinner was generously supported by the family of the late Frank Carson.

The audience also included the Secretary of State James Brokenshire, MPs and peers as well as high-profile campaigners and major donors of integrated education.

Thanking the guests for their faith in schools like hers, Ms Marshall added

"Your commitment to our schools and genuine interest in our pupils touches our hearts and is deeply humbling for us; your support helps us to achieve all our extra goals for our young peoples' learning - to achieve our 'if only' dreams - a perfect partnership and one which can only benefit integrated education and all those wonderful young people being educated together."

Baroness May Blood expressed her thanks to IEF donors for their continuing generosity and said

"I'm delighted to report that the campaign continues, with additional schools joining the integrated family



Marie Cowan, IEF Chair, and Janice Marshall

this term. These developments, driven by parents, show that the demand is out there for integrated school places, and with your help we will continue to do all we can to meet that demand until our political leaders wake up to reality and step in to fulfil their duty to integrated education."

Caireen McCloskey, from the Integrated AlumNI, also addressed the gathering where she shared her experience of attending Ulidia Integrated College and the work of the newly established former pupils' network.

Chalking up success at the Blackboard Awards

Congratulations to three people who were recognised for their hard work and dedication at this year's Blackboard Teaching Awards.

On 27 January, the Belfast Media Group hosted the 5th Annual Danske Bank Blackboard Awards ceremony at Stormont. The scheme recognizes the quality of Northern Ireland schools, and celebrates the best in our classroom assistants, teachers and principals.

Forty nominees were acknowledged and honoured, among them two from Malone Integrated College: Mr English, Head of Careers and Miss Cuffe, Head of English.

The event was also marked with eight Special Awards and Hazelwood Integrated College was delighted and proud that Kathleen O'Hare was named Principal of the Year.

Niamh Cuffe and Patrick English from Malone College



Hazelwood IC's Kathleen O'Hare, Principal of the Year



Congratulations Hazelwood IPS

Hazelwood Integrated Nursery was a winner at the recent Families First Belfast awards which were presented at a gala ball at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The Nursery was particularly praised for their work with children with special needs. Tricia Douglas and Suzanne Redfern accepted the award.

Ceramics, sewing and Spanish extend the fun at Blackwater IC

At Blackwater Integrated College it's a definite Sí to the Extended Schools programme, which has been offering academic booster sessions in GCSE Spanish as well as English and Maths. Alongside the exam study, pupils enjoy developing and exploring their creative side through art and sewing.

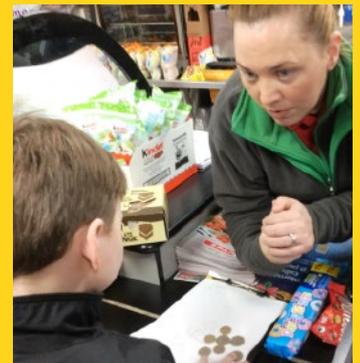
A successful 'trial run' of a sewing class as an after-school club last October has led to the class continuing this term due to demand.

Ceramics also proved very popular and the activity was extended to include an evening class for parents and friends of the College. Christmas angels and an assortment of other seasonal decorations were produced in term one; this term the focus has been on pots and pets, real and mythical.

The success of the sessions is underlined by the fact that one primary school pupil who heard about the class at Open Night in January recruited her mother and another family to join – meaning that she has attended classes at the school even before having her Year 8 place for September confirmed!

The IEF has been proud to assist many of these developments at Blackwater through the Carson Awards Programme which supports creativity and the arts at integrated colleges.

Ceramics at Blackwater IC



A shopping trip for the Culture Club at Hazelwood IPS

Culture Club goes shopping

Newcomer children at Hazelwood Integrated Primary School enjoy staying after school once a week for Culture Club. The club offers practice in reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary through fun activities such as games, art, drama, ICT, cookery and role-play.

All these skills transfer to life outside the gates of Hazelwood IPS; for instance playing customer and shopkeeper gave the group confidence with language and handling money. Then the culture club put it all into practice with a trip to a local shop.

Mock trial shows that Hazelwood IC team are NI winners

A team of senior students at Hazelwood Integrated College have won through to the finals of the Bar Mock Trials competition, in their first year of entering!

The dedication of the fifteen pupils, who studied and practised after school, saw them beat off stiff competition in the legal skills contest, which is run by the Citizenship Foundation. The UK finals were held in the Royal Courts of Justice, London, at the end of March.

The Hazelwood team took on the roles of barristers, witnesses, jurors, court clerk and court usher to argue two cases against other schools.

Belfast barrister Niall J Hunt QC, one of the competition judges, praised the Hazelwood IC team for their determination, attention to detail, and good humour throughout.

Thanks are due to the Legal Education Foundation, the Citizenship Foundation and those IEF donors whose support enabled Hazelwood IC to take part so successfully.



Cranmore IPS and friends visit Belfast Cathedral (picture: Karen Bushby/Belfast Cathedral)

Primary schools build trust

More than 80 year 6 pupils from three Belfast primary schools visited St Anne's Cathedral together on 20 January, on a fact-finding mission.

The children were from Cranmore Integrated Primary, St John the Baptist Primary and Taughmonagh Primary. The trip was the latest of a series co-ordinated by Cranmore IPS and supported by the IEF's Trust Programme.

The combined group has already visited the Belfast Islamic Centre, Bethany Church in Finaghy, and Clonard Monastery. Year 5 pupils have also been involved in the project, visiting religious centres including the Jewish Synagogue and Lowe Memorial Presbyterian Church in Finaghy.

Mr Andrew Duggan, a teacher at Cranmore IPS, said

"After the visits there is always a lot of discussion and we all go back to school together to talk and do activities. We talk about what is similar

about the different places of worship and what is different. This helps the children to respect and celebrate difference."

Trust Programme deadline

A new round of 'Integration in Practice' grants (part of the Trust Programme) is now open for applications from integrated schools - the closing date is Friday 26 April 2017 at noon.

Thanks to generous support from the Pears Foundation, grants of £500 to £5,000 are available to help schools in their work to strengthen their integrated ethos, for example through training for new staff, or developing policies and practice in relation to RE, assemblies and festivals.

Further information and application packs may be downloaded from the IEF website: www.ief.org.uk/grants/trust-programme/



Student lawyers Claudia Marshall, Marta Piatkowska, Martina Smichova and Rachel Fitzsimons

Ulidia IC Eco Team goes global

The Eco Team at Ulidia Integrated College have been working closely with Lycée Pôle Fort-Dauphin Eco Team in Madagascar, collaborating on an article for the Young Reporters for the Environment youth journalism project, which is run by Eco Schools.

The two schools have been exploring fair trade. The Lycée Pôle Fort-Dauphin students have been exploring the production of commodities such as sugar and cocoa in their local community. The Ulidia IC team has been looking at the fair trade consumption of these products and the disposal of the packaging that they are sold in. The resulting article will be published on both school websites.



The Ulidia IC Eco Team with chocolate from Madagascar

Trail shows the journey of integrated education

Lagan College has marked 35 years since its foundation as the first planned integrated school by installing a heritage trail around the site, with lively permanent displays focussing on different aspects of the College and the early years of integrated education in Northern Ireland.

Campaign Chair of the IEF, Baroness May Blood MBE, was guest of honour at the official unveiling of the exhibition, alongside Angelina Fusco of the Heritage Lottery Fund which is supporting the Lagan College archive project.

Some of the original pupils and founding staff, including the first principal, Sheila Greenfield, joined the celebrations and toured the trail. The displays represent years of work collating images, videos, documents and records followed by a busy summer of scanning, cataloging and writing.

The next stage is to create a dedicated heritage and history website, where all 6000+ pictures, articles and historical items will be stored and easily accessed. This will be accompanied by a sister site - a complete Lagan College Alumni database and networking service, where all the thousands of collected images and records can be accessed.



Then and now: founder Principal Sheila Greenfield and founder pupil Richard Sherry with their photo from 35 years ago at the Lagan College heritage trail (picture: Ulster Tatler)

Colourful celebration at All Children's IPS

All Children's Integrated Primary School in Newcastle have celebrated their thirtieth birthday with special guests including US Consul General Dan Lawton, founding parents, past pupils and local clergy of different denominations. The school staged an anniversary assembly for the visitors, and the pupils proudly unveiled a new artwork made with support from artist Karen Weston, to which the whole school contributed. The multi-media piece will greet anyone entering the foyer of All Children's and represents the school and its local environment.

At the ceremony, the children performed songs and read poems about their school's history and their hopes for the future.

All Children's IPS was established by a group of determined local parents and opened in September 1986 in a local hall. For years the school worked in temporary huts on the present site, which now boasts purpose-built modern facilities accommodating more than 200 children.

(l-r) Paul Caskey (IEF), Principal John Beattie, artist Karen Weston, Clodhna Scott-Wills (NICIE) US Consul Dan Lawton, David George (Governor) and Pauline Horner (Parents' Council) (picture: Mourne Observer)



Happy Birthday to us!

The IEF is 25 years old this year and there will be plenty of exciting opportunities to get involved in celebrating our anniversary. Since its formation, the Fund has provided more than £20 million in grants to integrated schools and has provided millions more in loans and financial guarantees. This has all been made possible through the support of donors and fundraising. Throughout this year the IEF will be visiting a number of integrated schools to record some special short videos highlighting how IEF grants have made a difference to the respective schools. On Saturday 07 October 2017, a major Gala will be held at the Europa Hotel in Belfast, with some very special guests. For more information contact Brian or Paul at the IEF on 028 9069 4099.

Integrated education supporters (l-r) Ciaran Hinds, Baroness May Blood and the late Jimmy Ellis celebrating the IEF's 20th birthday in 2012



Minister views sports developments at ICD



Peter Weir (centre) with Ann Tate, Chair of Governors, staff and senior pupils at ICD new sports facility

Peter Weir MLA, as Education Minister, visited Integrated College Dungannon in December to open the school's new floodlit 3G Pitch and view progress made on the building of a new Sports Hall.

Minister Weir was greeted at the college by Ann Tate, Chairperson of the Board of Governors, and Principal Andrew Sleeth, as well as governors and pupils. Mr Weir was welcomed to the new pitch by the school's U13 soccer team. Everyone is looking forward to using the new two-storey sports hall which is due to be completed in May this year. The hall will include a fitness room and drama/dance studio and the facility will be available for local community use.

The building project is funded through the Department of Education School Enhancement Programme and is part of an overall investment of approximately £3.5million.

Living prizes get primary schools planting at Allianz scarecrow awards

The prize ceremony for the 2016 Allianz scarecrow contest saw integrated primary school pupils getting their hands dirty at the agricultural college in Antrim. Representatives of the classes which had won prizes at the annual Garden Show Ireland in May travelled to the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) Greenmount Campus on Friday 02 December. They were awarded saplings to take back to school. The competition, for integrated primary schools all over Northern Ireland, is sponsored by Allianz and co-ordinated by the Integrated Education Fund.

There were 21 scarecrows entered in four categories: Traditional, Colourful, Eco-Friendly and Scary. There was also an overall winner prize which was awarded to Ballycastle Integrated Primary School.

The children not only received young trees for their winning work, but also potted up special Christmas window-boxes for their schools, and each school received a gardening book to encourage further efforts!

The Fund is grateful to Allianz for their continuing support and to CAFRE Greenmount for generously supplying the prizes.



Children from Ballycastle IPS with (l-r) Claire Faulkner (Garden Show Ireland), Brian Small (IEF) Nicholas Crawford (Allianz) and Gemma Hill (IEF)

Sharing the secrets of sporting success at Ulidia IC

Sports studies classes at Ulidia Integrated College have been working with Olympic star Dr Michael McKillop as part of the Sky Sports Living for Sport programme.

Michael, who volunteers as a Sky Ambassador to schools, is an Irish middle-distance runner and Paralympic athlete who achieved gold medals in the 1500m and 800m at the Paralympic Games in London, Rio and Beijing. He is also the current world record holder for the respective distances.

Michael has been assisting and motivating year 13 and 14 BTEC students, discussing the skills which he had to develop to take him to the top. These included communication, planning and hunger to achieve. He also shared his challenges with mental health during preparation for the Rio games in 2016 and spoke of the need for mental toughness and resilience in the world of sport.

This was to be Michael's last visit to the college as the Sky Ambassador programme is coming to an end and the staff and pupils are very grateful for all the support he has given. They will be watching his career and wishing him well as he goes for his final goal - gold in Tokyo in 2020.



Olympic star Dr Michael McKillop (back row centre) at Ulidia IC



The cup winners at Drumragh IC

Drumragh IC makes GAA history

Drumragh Integrated College has carried off the Danske Bank JJ Reilly Ulster Schools Cup – making sporting history as the first integrated school to win the GAA competition.

Drumragh senior team beat neighbours St John’s Dromore 1-11 to 2-7 in the final, played last December.

Head of PE and coach to the team, Conor Gallagher, is a former MacRory Cup player and has been teaching and coaching Gaelic games at Drumragh IC since it was established two decades ago.

The college team represents diverse backgrounds, with several players having no experience with a GAA club, but the school has made use of the Tyrone GAA Development coaches and the local club coaches among the Drumragh IC teaching staff. During 2016, the school’s U-14s were also successful, winning through to the semi-final of the Danske Bank Corn Mac Neasa.

Sport for All at Glenraig IPS

As part of their Integrated Education Month celebrations, Glenraig Integrated Primary School hosted a “Game of Three Halves” event in partnership with IFA, IRFU and Ulster GAA. Coaches from all three codes put the children through their paces in each sport during the morning with children learning through fun games and activities that no sport is specific to one community or culture.

In the afternoon, the coaches led the assembly and shared the benefits of playing not only their sport, but also of playing sport to make friends and stay fit and healthy.

Reflecting on the success of the event, Vice-Principal Sean Spillane said

“At Glenraig, we wanted to challenge the perception in wider society that certain sports are only open to particular parts of the community. Throughout this day of fun activities, we wanted our children to see that sport is about participating and leading a healthy lifestyle. We are very fortunate to have good links with local sports clubs in our area and we hope to develop these links further in the future.”

The theme of sport for all was developed in classrooms during the remainder of the week with children studying sports from different cultures around the world such as Boules, Kabbadi, Aussie Rules and even Sumo Wrestling!



Glengormley IPS victorious soccer team celebrating their fifth successive win in the Integrated Schools Cup

Sporting Success in GIPS!

Glengormley Integrated Primary School has been celebrating success in a range of sports reflecting their cross-community approach since the school transformed to integrated status in 2003. As the school has grown, the capacity to select and train winning teams has increased whilst all pupils have also been encouraged to benefit from sport and team activity.

Thanks to the IFA support and the commitment of teaching staff, Glengormley IPS has a very successful football team which has won the Integrated Cup for five years in a row. The latest development is an all-girls team which is progressing well.

The school has also taken the opportunity to work with Netball Community Coaches and the GAA. The hurling club began with 15 eager children who had never held a hurling stick before, but whose enthusiasm led them to be crowned North Belfast Champions at the end of their first season. The hard work and fun continue, with high expectations for the current school year.

From small beginnings to Parliament Buildings: Integrated Education Month opens with symbolic walk

Integrated Education Month 2017 was launched on Friday 03 March with a symbolic walk celebrating 35 years of integrated education in Northern Ireland. The journey began where Lagan College, the first planned integrated school, opened at Ardnally Scout Centre. A small group of founding parents, pupils, staff, and friends set out for Stormont, with other supporters joining them along the six-mile route. At the gates to the Stormont Estate they were met by more than 500 children, teachers, parents and supporters from integrated schools and colleges across Northern Ireland, who joined them for the final mile to the steps of Parliament Buildings.

The gathering was greeted at the top of the hill by Roisin Marshall, CEO of NICIE and BBC Radio Ulster personality Marcus Hunter-Neill.

A time capsule containing a sod from that first school site was presented by founding parents Cecil Linehan and Anne Odling-Smee to pupils from the two newest integrated schools: Killyleagh IPS and Loughries IPS.

There was entertainment from local singer/songwriter (and star of BBC TV's *Let it Shine*) Scott Macaulay, followed by a moving solo by a pupil from Lagan College. Then everyone was encouraged to join in a dance session led by pupils from integrated schools on the stone steps of Stormont.

Roisin Marshall thanked everyone for the support and determination shown not only that morning but over the past 35 years. She went on to express her desire for all schools to achieve an integrated ethos within the next 35 years.

Children from Killyleagh IPS and Loughries IPS with Killyleagh IPS Principal Jason Milligan and Cecil Linehan



Students from North Coast Integrated College



Marcus Hunter-Neill and NICIE CEO Roisin Marshall



Hundreds of pupils, teachers, parents and friends gathered at Stormont on 03 March