

Presentation of Awards for Co-operation is Cool Project Laois Education Centre Thursday 28th February 2013

This project is run in partnership with Laois Education Centre, ICOS and Glanbia.



The 10th Cooperation is Cool Awards ceremony took place in Laois Education Centre on Thursday evening 28th February last. This event which was attended by up to 200 people was the culmination of many weeks and months work for many schools in the catchment area of Laois Education Centre, which includes schools based in Laois, Offaly and North Tipperary.

The Cooperation is Cool project is based on the Cooperative Model and has its origins in the book by Teddy Fennelly ‘A Triumph of Co-operation over Adversity’. It focuses on the knowledge that young people have around co-operation and the history of the co-operative movement and its importance in Ireland. The project also introduces the concept of working together to young people as ICOS, Glanbia and Laois Education Centre are doing so successfully with this project.

Primary, Post Primary and Special Schools are invited each year to submit a project which demonstrates strong elements of cooperation but must also have an ICT component. This year, 220 pupils from 7 primary and 3 post-primary schools exhibited 16 projects and the result of their work was evaluated on Thursday evening last in Laois Education Centre. The pupils have been supported by their teachers, the curriculum resource materials prepared by Paddy Bates of Laois Education Centre, parents and their local community in preparing their projects.



Prize Winners:

Prize	School	Project	Teacher
Overall Prize	Tullamore College	One Good Idea	Emma Coyne
Winning Project on Cooperative Movement	Coolderry NS	Cool Cooperation with the Cooperative Movement	Una Teehan
1 st Prize Post-Primary	Sacred Heart Tullamore	Operation Cooperation	Elaine Lanham/Breda Hand
1 st Prize Primary	Gaelscoil an tSli Dála	An Téstal	Róise Nevin
2 nd Prize Post-Primary	Scoil Christ Ri, Portlaoise	Vintage Tea Lady	Anne Dollard
2 nd Prize Primary	Castlecuffe NS, Clonaslee	Cooperation for Clonaslee ICW	Bridie Dunne
3 rd Prize Post-Primary	Tullamore College	Tullamore Calendar 2013	Kelly Dolan
3 rd Prize Primary	Paddock NS	Mountrath Through the Ages	Alison Phelan
Highly Commended Primary	St Joseph's PS, Tullamore	Penguin Project	Helen Nelligan
Highly Commended Primary	Arles NS	EU Cooperation in Action	Annette Stapleton
Highly Commended Primary	St Kieran's NS, Broughall	Ní Neart go cur le Chéile	Esther Lambe
Highly Commended Primary	Coolderry NS	Cool Community Cooperation	Una Teehan
Merit Award Post Primary	Scoil Christ Rí, Portlaoise	Fort Protector	Mags Hanafin/Anne Dollard

Highly Commended Post-Primary	Tullamore College	Lumo Pet	Emma Coyne/Kelly Dolan
Highly Commended Post-Primary	Scoil Christ Ri, Portlaoise	Peggy Dress	Anne Dollard
Highly Commended Post-Primary	Scoil Christ Ri, Portlaoise	Mad Hatters	Anne Dollard
Highly Commended Post-Primary	Scoil Christ Ri, Portlaoise	Boat-E-Licious	Anne Dollard

In addition to Glanbia who has supported this project since its inception, ICOS (Irish Co-operative Organisation Society Ltd) and NIS (Network Infrastructure Systems (NIS) Rahan, Tullamore have provided very valuable sponsorship for the third consecutive year. Jim Enright Director of Laois Education Centre explained that without the continued support of the partners and our new sponsors this project would not be feasible. On the awards night, in addition to individual prizes, each participating school received a framed certificate of participation.

The overall prize of an Mini iPad was presented by Dr Sarah Fitzpatrick, Deputy Director NCCA and Mr Gerry Buckley, CEO NIS, Rahan (one of the main sponsors) to Tullamore College for their project 'One Good Idea'. The best project which focused on the cooperative movement was won by Coolderry NS for their project entitled 'Cool Cooperation with the Cooperative Movement'. This prize was sponsored by NIS and presented by Mr Gerry Buckley, who said that NIS was delighted to be involved in this cooperative project and was delighted that as a company providing ICT services not only in the midlands area but nationwide as well, that they were in a position to give something back to the school community that has supported NIS for many years. Gerry commented on the very high standard and commended the staff of Laois Education Centre for their work in this project.' Gerry also spoke of 'the importance of cooperation in the local community and pointed out that co-operation was very evident in all the projects on view this evening'. He emphasised that in current economic times that cooperation is vital.

There were many other exciting prizes presented on the night which included iPads, Digital Cameras, Kindles, Wireless Presenters, Wireless Headphones and Memory Keys and these were presented by members of the adjudication panel.

The project was evaluated by:

Sarah Fitzpatrick	Deputy CEO, NCCA (Chairman of Adjudicating Panel)
Tony Mahon	Former Director of Laois Education Centre
Rosemary Day	Laois Education Centre
Fran Bates	Retired Post-Primary Principal
Evelyn Reddin	Laois County Enterprise Board
Gerry Buckley	CEO, NIS, Rahan, Tullamore



Dr Sarah Fitzpatrick, Chairman of the Adjudicating Panel, complimented all involved and commented on the excellence of the projects this year. Sarah spoke to the pupils in attendance and went on to say that not one of the projects here this evening could have been done by any one student on their own, that what was required was a collaboration and cooperation by their classmates which exemplify what 'cooperation' is all about. The skills learned by the students in this programme will never be forgotten, even if not used for a number of years. Sarah congratulated the teachers, pupils and parents on their wonderful creative work and spoke of the judges' incredibly difficult job in ranking the projects as each and every project was excellent and were all winners in their own right.

Paddy Bates who mc'd the evening, welcomed and thanked teachers, parents, pupils, judges, partners Glanbia and the sponsors NIS and ICOS. Paddy presented each participating school with a framed certificate.

The entertainment for the evening was provided by the Children's entertainer Clown Jeca Brazil, who involved many of the pupils and indeed teachers present in his very entertaining and engaging show.

Jim Enright thanked the schools that continue to support this project and welcomed new schools. He also thanked the partner Glanbia for their continued support of the project and the two sponsors NIS, Rahan, Tullamore and ICOS. He also thanked all in the Centre for their work and for continuing to make this project available to schools and had a particular word of thanks for Yvonne Nolan who single headedly managed and coordinated all aspects of this project. He further thanked Paddy Bates who, as always, has put a lot of work into ensuring that this competition is a success.