

Press Release

Presentation of Awards for Co-operation is Cool Project **Laois Education Centre Thursday 11th March 2010**

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

360 pupils from 9 primary and post primary schools exhibited 14 projects in the Co-operation is Cool Project and the result of their work was evaluated on Thursday 11th March 2010 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 based on Co-operation.

Prize Winners:

Prize	School	Project	Teacher
Winner Post Primary	Tullamore College	Faithful Sporting Ltd	Renee Gallagher
Winner Primary	Scoil Naisiúnta Naomh Eoin, Rath, Birr	Co-operation is Cool in Fairyland School	Caitriona Howell & Maria Davis
Runner-Up Post Primary	Scoil Christ Ri, Portlaoise	Zoom Anonymous	Norma Dwyer
Runner-Up Primary	Sacred Heart PS, Portlaoise	Fit Factor	Roseann Sherlock & Eimear Gallagher
2 nd Runner-Up Primary	St Josephs PS, Tullamore,	The Blue Sky Storybook & CD	Helen Nelligan
2 nd Runner-Up Post Primary	Tullamore College	Thing a Majig	Renee Gallagher
1 st New Entrant	Scoil Phadraig Naofa BNS, Mountmellick	E.C.C.O. Emo Court Co-operation	Eamonn Riall & Deirdre Challoner
Runner-Up New Entrant	St Paul's BNS, Portlaoise	Comhaltas Ceoltóiri Portlaoise	Róise Nevin
Highly Commended Primary	Castlecuffe NS, Clonaslee,	What Goes Around Comes Around – Helping others Help US	Bridie Dunne, Grace Digan & Roisin
Highly Commended Primary	Camross NS	Spinning a Yarn	Mary McCarthy & Talitha Horan
Highly Commended	Scoil Christ Ri, Portlaoise	Funky Donkey Hoodies	Norma Dwyer

Post Primary			
Highly Commended	Scoil Christ Ri, Portlaoise	Sleeves 4 Ease	Norma Dwyer
Highly Commended	Scoil Christ Ri, Portlaoise	Magic Memories	Norma Dwyer
Highly Commended	Scoil Christ Ri, Portlaoise	Glove Buddies	Norma Dwyer

In addition to Laois Partnership and Glanbia who have sponsored the prizes for this competition since its initiation, NIS (Network Infrastructure Systems) Rahan, Tullamore sponsored the project again this year and ICOS have come on board as a new sponsor this year. Laois Education Centre coordinates and cosponsors this event. Without the continued support of the partners and our new sponsors this project would not be feasible. Each participating school received a framed certificate of participation, a copy of Office and Publisher software and each participating student received a certificate.

The overall prize of a Netbook was sponsored by Gerry Buckley, Director of NIS, Rahan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Other prizes which included Netbooks, Digital Cameras, portable Hard Drives and Memory Keys were presented by Ann Goodwin from Laois Partnership, John Carroll and Jim Delaney from Glanbia, Ray Doyle from ICOS and members of the adjudication panel.

The project was evaluated by:

Ray Doyle	ICOS
Dominic McEvoy	Post Primary Deputy Principal
Bridie Dunne	Retired Primary School Principal
Rosemary Day	Co-ordinator of Emo Project, Laois Education Centre
Sean Hearn	Co-operation is Cool Steering Committee
Evelyn Reddin	Laois County Enterprise Board

Dominic McEvoy, Chairperson of the Adjudicating Panel, welcomed everyone to the seventh year of the project which has been very popular with both primary and post primary schools as a means of developing 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 Laois Partnership, Glanbia and Laois Education Centre are doing so successfully with this project. This project has been a great success and the 14 projects prove this. The skills learned by the students in this programme are never forgotten, even if not used for a number of years. To see young people becoming involved in their own local area and for the benefit of their community is positive and part of the ethos of the partners.

Dominic also congratulated the teachers, pupils and parents on their wonderful creative work. He thanked the schools that continue to support this project and welcomed new schools. He also thanked the partners Laois Partnership and Glanbia for their continued support of the project and welcomed the two additional new sponsors NIS, Rahan, Tullamore and ICOS. Dominic thanked all in the Centre for their work and for continuing to make this project available to schools. He further thanked Paddy Bates who although retired has put a lot of work into ensuring that this competition is a success.

Paddy Bates who mc'd the evening, welcomed and thanked teachers, parents, pupils, judges, partners Glanbia and Laois Partnership and new sponsors NIS and ICOS. Paddy presented each participating school with a framed certificate and a copy of Office and Publisher software.

A feature of the evening was a short recital by the Orpheus orchestra ,the youth section of Laois School of Music which was enthusiastically received by pupils, teachers and parents.