

Irish Primary PE Association

June 2009



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Chairperson: Caitriona Cosgrave

Secretary: Clíodhna Breen

Treasurer: Ita Seoighe

Conference 2009

On Saturday, 28th March over 50 participants attended the 6th annual conference of the IPPEA in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra.

Following a welcome to the day's proceedings by John Murphy, Chairperson of IPPEA the conference started with a number of workshops based on **Disability Sports** (presented by Mark Barry - Irish Wheelchair Association - and Brenda Hopkins - Cerebral Palsy Sport Ireland), **Active School Flag** (presented by Michael Quealy - PPDS) and **Salsa for Kids** (presented by Carmel Smith - PPDS).

The 11.00 workshops consisted of practical sessions on **Movement Programmes for children with motor disabilities** (presented by Michael Quealy - PPDS) or **Differentiating Athletics** (presented by John O'Donnell - Athletics Ireland and PPDS).

Professor Margaret Talbot, CEO of the Association for Physical Education (UK) delivered the keynote address of the day. Margaret spoke on the current situation and position of PE within the educational system. She spoke of her vision of every child being enabled to systematically develop physical competency by moving efficiently, effectively and safely and understanding what they are doing. In essence, that every child should be enabled to develop physical literacy. Her enthusiasm for the subject was quite infectious and it is true to say that all participants left feeling very much at one with Margaret's overall aim of Physical Education being at the heart of school life, for life.

After a much needed break for lunch and a chance to recharge the batteries, participants chose between three different workshops for the first session of the afternoon - **Walking with physical and sensory challenges** - Susan Marron (St. Patrick's College), **Rhythmic Gymnastics** - Sarah Murray & Valentina Kolokova (Irish Rhythmic Gymnastics Association) or **Games with the Frisbee** - Tony Sweeney (Froebel College).

The final workshops of the day incorporated a repeat session of **Rhythmic Gymnastics**, a theoretical session on **Encouraging children to be physically active at break time** - Susan Marron (St. Patrick's College) & Anne Cawley (St. John the Baptist Girls Primary School, Cashel, Co. Tipperary) or an outdoors session with John Murphy (PPDS) on **Games and Activities for the development of ball skills**.

Following a very enjoyable and active day the 6th Annual Conference of the IPPEA then drew to a close. Looking forward to seeing you all again in 2010.

Special thanks for the smooth running of the day are due to the staff of the PE Department - Frances Murphy, Maura Coulter and Susan Marron - and all the ancillary staff in St. Patricks College for ensuring that all aspects for the venue were in order.

Don't forget to check out www.irishprimarype.com for resource materials from all our presenters on the day!

TPC's - What are they all about?

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialised information to a targeted audience. A school newsletter can be a great way to develop a strong relationship with parents.

First choose a short title for your newsletter– something like "School News," or "Back to School." As you choose the title, also take time to think about the newsletter's theme. What important messages do you want to

send parents and families?

Next, establish how much time and money you can spend on your newsletter. These factors will help determine how frequently you publish the newsletter and its length.

Use the body of your school newsletter to keep parents apprised of major projects and class events, as well as of any school district news.

Assessment project

In our last newsletter we highlighted an inter-college project which was underway in relation to the area of assessment in primary PE entitled '**Assessment for Learning in Physical Education; first steps towards supporting teachers**'.

So far the teachers involved in the project have been interviewed regarding the issues around assessment in PE and are now teaching a series of lesson plans from the PSSI CD, with a focus on some simple assessment tools that can be used in PE lessons.

Some interesting discussion has taken place regarding what, how and where assessment in PE is best applied. Initial observations include:

- Teachers felt that PE lessons were more focused when assessment was planned as both they and the children were more aware of learning outcomes

- There were practical issues around recording assessment in PE
- The usability of assessment tools depended on the class level being taught

The next phase of the project is due to commence in September 2009, with a focus on resources for assessment in PE for a wider population of teachers. We'll keep you posted.....



INTO article - Specialist Teacher

The IPPEA is currently putting together a response from the association to the INTOUCH article (March 2009 edition) regarding the role of the specialist teacher in primary PE.

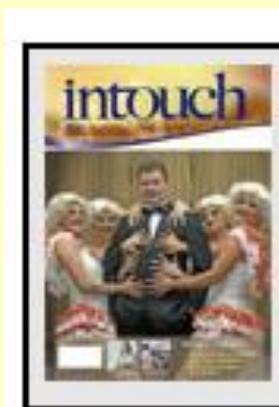
As our association's constitution states, we strive to '*support the position of the class teacher as the person best placed to provide quality physical education within an integrated primary school curriculum*' (1a). As such, we believe

that the IPPEA should support the argument for the class teacher (with their knowledge of individual children's needs and pedagogical knowledge) as the best person to deliver the PE curriculum.

We encourage members to also air their views on the subject by writing to the INTO directly or to send any comments to us at.....

Caption describing picture or graphic.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."



Tips section

In future newsletters we hope to maintain and develop this Tips section - but we need your help!

If you have any games, ideas or pearls of wisdom even that you would be willing to share with your fellow PE enthusiasts, please consider jotting them down in an email and sending them to us here at IPPEA - Cliodhna.breen@ppds.ie

For this edition we said decided to focus on a couple of handy websites that have some interesting sports day ideas for your school.

Check out:

www.sportshall.org

www.irish-sugar.ie/sports/mckinneys/html/Mckinneysgames.pdf



Website links

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Summer courses

The DES booklet contains PE and PE related courses on pages 44-53. Over 70 courses are listed - course numbers: 304-375. The booklet should be available in all schools for the last few weeks.

By far the most courses are on offer in Dublin city and county with 20 courses approximately. Most counties have at least one course and some like Galway(6), Limerick(5), Donegal(4) have several courses on offer.

Sligo, Kilkenny, Cork, Kerry, Mayo and Leitrim have up to three courses on offer. Only 3 of the 26 counties appear to have no PE or PE related courses on offer. A few courses are offered online, for example Richard Bowles' course on "The Role of Gaelic Games...." at richard.bowles@mic.ul.ie and "Physical Education: Developing the Understandings, Ideas and Strategies...." at info@cpdcollege.com

A varied and interesting range of courses are on offer: Aquatics and water

safety, Awareness through movement, Dancing including Traditional, Céilí, Set dancing, Folk, Creative, Hip Hop, Ballroom, Latin American, Jazz and Laban in Practice in Dance.

Courses are on offer in: Coaching Fundamentals, A School PE programme, PE in the Primary school, Inclusive PE, PE and Outdoor Education, PE the Handy Way, Fitness in the classroom, G.A.A for teachers, G.A.A in the Primary school, Hurling and Camógie and Incorporating Skipping/Skip-Hop in Primary school.

Some courses are run by individuals or organisations or are on offer through the Education centres. The Full-Time Education centres are all listed on the last few pages of the booklet with their contact details.

Michael Weed

Spóirt is spraoi!

We're on the Web!
www.irishprimarype.com

Continuing Professional Development

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New Committee

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A new committee was elected and they held their first executive meeting in May.

Chairperson: Caitriona Cosgrave
 Secretary: Clíodhna Breen

Active School Flag

Unfurling the Active School Flag

The Active School Flag had its origins in the European Year of Education through Sport (Eyes). Its main aims are: to increase awareness in schools and in the wider school community of the benefits from participation in PE, physical Activity and Sport and to give recognition to children school staffs and the wider school community who are promoting quality provision in these three areas.

The Active School Flag is non competitive and is based on sound educational principles. It does not have a deadline and, in fact, schools are encouraged to ensure they allow ample time to complete all their tasks to ensure that the flag will make a real difference to provision of PE, physical activity and sport on the ground.

The Active School flag promotes the concept of the Active School Week. Schools that engage in an active school week report that it is a great experience and a wonderful opportunity to weave in certain activities into provision that may not be possible

send parents and families?

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Treasurer: Ita Seoighe
 Committee: John Murphy, Orla Howlin, Ciara Elliott, Ciara Stanford, Susan Marron, Cathal Ruane, Michael Weed, Pdraig Egan and Suzi Macken.

The committee's next meeting will take place in September '09.

during the school year. Many schools involve the senior classes in the planning and running of the week. Activities can range from surfing, tug of war, horse riding, yoga, kite flying, the list is endless.

Parents have said that the week is a great idea and it is an opportunity for schools to invite parents with certain areas of expertise to become involved in physical activity provision. A growing number of schools also invite past pupils with expertise to come assist for sessions during the week.

The first primary schools will have received their flags before the holidays. Accreditors will be trained in late September and many, many more will be awarded the flag before Christmas 2009.

If you would like to: find out more about the Flag process, see the names of schools that have been awarded the flag or send in photos of some aspect of PE, physical activity and sport in your school please check out the Active School flag website:
www.activeschoolflag.ie

