

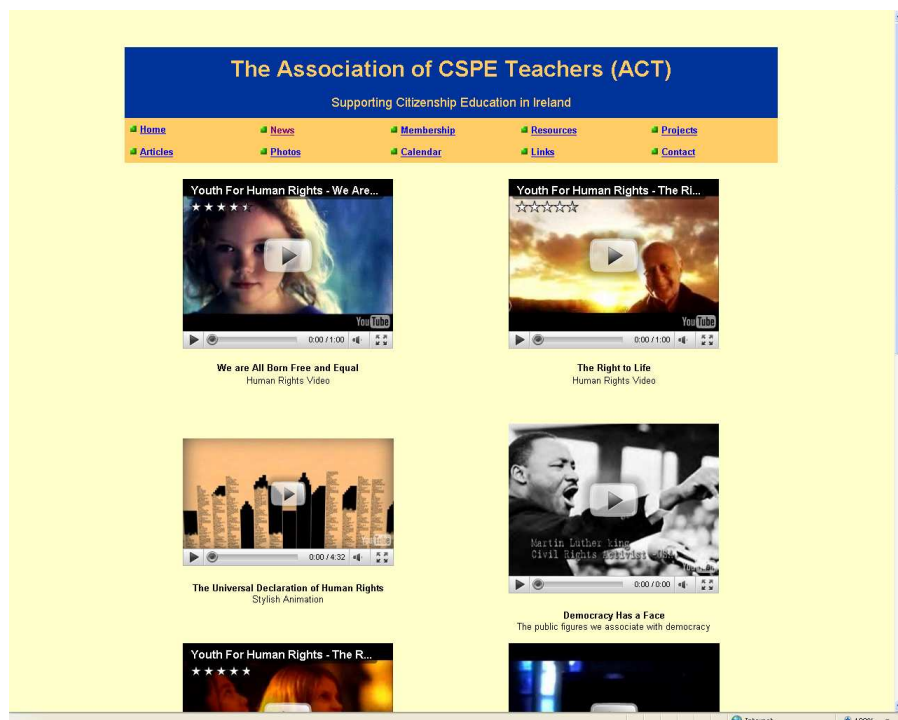
ACTIVATE

No. 44 March 2010

The Newsletter of the Association of CSPE Teachers (ACT)
Supporting Citizenship Education in Ireland

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NEW! CSPE VIDEOS

We've now added a videos page to our website, offering a range of CSPE related videos that will be added to from time to time. These range from useful discussion starters to substantial educational tools (see above for screenshot). Topics include human rights, democracy etc. The collection features animations, interviews, profiles etc.

The videos can be shown in class for those with broadband connection, but as some are from YouTube which is blocked on the educational network they will have to be downloaded at home first – e.g. using free software like *Realplayer SP*, *YouTube Downloader* or equivalent. Some of the videos are from a series on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – each right is treated in a one-minute video clip. Note that these videos, while very useful and professional but have an American flavour and are made by Youth for Human Rights, which has links to Scientology.

Check it out at www.cspeteachers.ie/videos.html

CSPE Deadline

This year's deadline for the completion of RAPs and CWABs is **Friday, 30th April 2010**. Blank RAPs and CWABs for this year's examination candidates have been sent to schools directly by the State Examinations Commission. The plastic bags for these have yet to be sent, and usually don't appear until near Easter. If you have any queries contact Ms. Majella Smyth at 0906-442700. The completed RAPs and CWABs are handed up in schools and retained securely in schools until the day of the written examination when they are handed over to the Examination Superintendent.

Summer Exam

The CSPE Junior Certificate written examination will take this year on **Monday, 14th June 2010** from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm. As usual, directly after the exam, ACT will have a review meeting open to all members. Details to follow in next edition.

Membership Matters

Memberships for 2009/2010 are overdue. Check mailing label for current status. If necessary please send €20 to our Treasurer of ACT, Finbar Loftus, St Peter's Community School, Passage West, Cork.

News

Concern Competition

Information arrived in schools in January about the **Concern Creative Writing Competition** for 2010. The task is to write the speech you would give to world leaders on ONE of the Millennium Development Goals. Deadline is 21st March. There's a Junior, Senior and Adult category. Prizes include netbooks, e-readers, and mp 3 players. More info: www.concern.net/writingcompetition

Anti-Bullying DVD

A new **DVD on bullying** has been sent to all secondary schools, addressed to principals. It's from the people who run www.antibullyingcampaign.ie It includes four video presentations. It was indicated on the envelope that the DVD should be passed on to Guidance Counselors, Anti-Bullying Team members and Pastoral Care personnel. There are question sheets on the website that can be downloaded and either copied and distributed to a class group to answer after watching one of the films or that the teacher can ask in the class to generate discussion after viewing. The campaign is not in a position to send further copies of the DVD so they suggest making several backup duplicate copies of the disk.

Trócaire Resources

The Education Unit in Trócaire has produced a Post Primary school resource on the recent earthquake in Haiti <http://www.trocaire.org/resources/schoolresources> . This is a Powerpoint Presentation which can be played directly from the Trocaire site or saved to your computer. It links in with CSPE, Jnr Cert Geography and English.

Trocaire resources for this year's Lenten Campaign have been arriving in schools. Resources suitable for CSPE are included - among the resources is a full colour photo pack suitable for Post Primary schools along with a range of varied activities.

Cairo to Cape Town Challenge 2010

News of an interesting event from [Link Community Development Ireland \(LCD\)](http://www.lcd.ie): **Cairo to Cape Town Challenge 2010!** On March 26th, 2010, students can cross the Continent of Africa, without leaving their own yard and raise money for schools in Africa! This event is open to businesses, school and clubs or any group of people who want to get involved. Schools and clubs may retain 15% of the total funds raised and everyone will be in with a chance of winning fantastic prizes! If you're interested in finding out more about the Cairo to Cape Town Challenge 2010, email info@lcd.ie or text "CCC" to 087 9697623 087 9697623 with your name and contact details. Every participating business, school, club or group will receive a pack of materials, including an Interactive Map of Africa to complete the cross-continental Challenge on the big day.

Irish Aid Exhibition

Khulungira - Harvesting Hope in an African Village is a new multimedia exhibit about the power and promise of science for Africa's smallholder farmers. TY and CSPE classes are invited to visit. It's at the Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre, 27-31 Upper O'Connell St, Dublin 1. There are also permanent exhibitions and workshops on Irish Aid in general. To book contact Andrée Kearney at 01-8546934.

Oireachtas on Web

Daily proceedings from Dáil Éireann are available live on the web at www.oireachtas.ie - follow the relevant link to play live Dáil in your classroom!

Inservice/Courses

Evening Workshops:

Sustainable Development and CSPE, Thursday 11th March 6.30 to 9 pm in the Curriculum Development Unit, Sundrive Rd Dublin 12. The course aims:

- To facilitate participants' understanding of theories and concepts associated with Sustainable Development
- To enable participants to make the links between Sustainable Development and CSPE
- To provide participants with an opportunity to evaluate Sustainable Development activities and adapt these for CSPE classes
- To discuss possible Action Project initiatives

Please book in advance as places are limited to 20. Brochure:

<http://cspe.slss.ie/resources/c/3/7/Flyer%20re%20Sustainable%20Development%20Workshop.pdf>

Aid in an Unequal World: (Trócaire Workshops) Citizenship Resource from Trócaire - 'A Question of Aid: Aid in an Unequal World' focuses on the concepts of Development, Interdependence and Rights and Responsibilities. Each participant will receive a copy of the resource pack which consists of Teachers's Notes and a DVD. Dates: Monday 22nd March Dublin West Education Centre; Tuesday 23rd March Kilkenny Education Centre; Wednesday 24th March Limerick Education Centre; Thursday 25th March Carrick-on-Shannon Ed Centre. Brochure:

<http://cspe.slss.ie/resources/c/3/6/Flyer%20re%20A%20Question%20of%20Aid%20Workshops.pdf>

Journey Through Europe: Workshops that will focus on the concepts of Interdependence and Democracy and specifically on the European Union. The new resource pack 'Journey through Europe' which consists of a resource folder, maps, CD-Rom Activity, a Jigsaw based on the 27 Member States, a map of the European Union and a wall chart will be given to each participant. Dates: Tuesday 2nd March Kildare Education Centre; Wednesday 3rd March Navan Education Centre; Wednesday 3rd March Tralee Education Centre; Tuesday 9th March Sligo Education Centre; Wednesday 10th March Galway Education Centre; Thursday 11th March Cork Education Support Centre. Brochure:

<http://cspe.slss.ie/resources/c/3/11/Journey%20through%20Europe%20FlyerX.pdf>

Conference for Teachers

TEACHERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONLINE "Positive, practical responses in the classroom to what students are doing online", Saturday 27 March 2010, Lismullin Conference Centre, Co Meath, with speakers from Google and National Council for Technology Education (NCTE), and also student speakers. Time: 10.30am - 5.00pm [Registration: 10.00am] Cost: €50 (includes lunch and refreshments). Brochure:

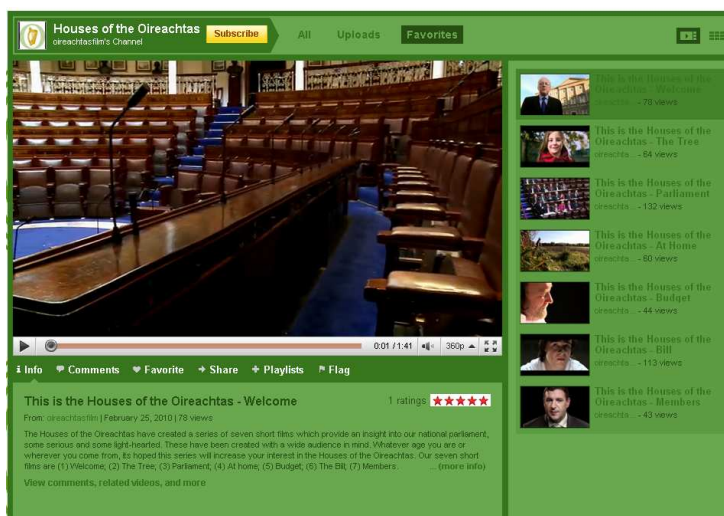
http://www.lismullin.org/images/stories/pdf/folder/teachers_seminar_2010-lismullin.pdf

Booking: http://www.lismullin.org/index.php?option=com_courses&action=detail&courseId=107

Oireachtas Website



The Oireachtas Website is an excellent resource for CSPE teachers. The most obvious uses would be to find names of government departments, ministers, TDs and Senators. But there is plenty of useful material apart from that.



On the Home page you'll find a link so that you can watch the Oireachtas live (www.oireachtas.ie) Here also you'll find a link to the "Oireachtas Short Film Series" – a series of short films from the Houses of the Oireachtas DVD.

At the top of the Home page you'll find a link to the Education section. Here you'll find a really useful Glossary of political terms relating to the work of the Oireachtas. Many of the terms apply to any working democracy. Some of the Irish language terms are included, but the

list could be improved to include more of those.

There are three interactive games for students to play – the "Parliament Pairs" game involves matching political heads (see pic), which should be useful for the opening question on the CSPE paper. "Beat the Bell" features a cartoon Cathaoirleach presiding over a political quiz. "Word Scramble" speaks for itself.

There are also links to find out how to organise a visit to the Dáil and Seanad, and links to a series of downloadable brochures on the Houses of the Oireachtas – Brochures at: <http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/visits/seven-ts/visitorsbrochures/>



Activate is published once per school term by the Association of CSPE Teachers—supporting citizenship education in Ireland. Articles and letters for publication should be sent to the editor, **Brendan O'Regan, Arklow CBS, Co. Wicklow, or emailed to info@cspeteachers.ie**