

ACTIVATE

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

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www.cspeteachers.ie



Chairperson Jeanne Barrett with guest speaker Fergus Finlay at Conference 2010.

Action Projects

Looks like we're spoiled for choice this year – the recent general election, a presidential election in Autumn, and likely referenda on the Seanad and children's rights. Also this is the International Year of the Volunteer (see page 4).

More ideas are available on our own site here:

<http://www.cspeteachers.ie/tracking.html> (election) and here:

<http://www.cspeteachers.ie/referendum.html> (referendum)

Revision Slide Presentations

Our revision presentations have been very popular in the last few years. A revised version of the "Famous Faces" presentation is available taking the recent election and new government into account. Use email contact details above to request this.

Changes to RAP booklet:

There are changes to this year's proforma booklets - the following Sections of the Report on the Action Project (RAP) for this year's 3rd Year CSPE students: Section 2: Page 2, Part (a); Page 3 (b) Section 3: Page 3, Part (a); Page 7, Part (d) Section 4: Page 8 Section 5: Page 9 For more information on these changes download the latest *CitizeNews* newsletter here:

[http://cspe.slss.ie/resources/c/3/32/CSPEA4%20Dec2010\(1\).pdf](http://cspe.slss.ie/resources/c/3/32/CSPEA4%20Dec2010(1).pdf)

Early Deadline:

This year's **deadline for the completion of RAPs and CWABs** will be much earlier this year - Friday, 15th April 2011. Blank RAPs and CWABs for this year's examination candidates will be sent to schools directly by the State Examinations Commission. 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.

Membership Details

Memberships for 2010/2011 are now overdue. Check envelope label for status. Please send €20 to our treasurer Finbar Loftus at St Peter's Community School, Passage West, Co. Cork.

News

Inservice Courses:

Here below are the dates, times and venues for professional development opportunities for teachers of Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE) during the Spring term. We can send application forms on request. These should also have arrived in schools by now.

The theme of the workshops this term is *Using Film in the CSPE Classroom*. These workshops will provide opportunities for participants to explore creative and innovative ways of engaging students in their learning of the CSPE Concepts/Units of study through the use of a variety of film clips/DVDs. Each workshop will include suitable methodologies aimed at encouraging the participation of students of all abilities. These workshops are in collaboration with the Irish Council for Civil Liberties. With funding from Trócaire they have developed a set of teaching materials on human rights and film, particularly for use in Civic, Social and Political Education. The materials use a number of the shortlisted films from the last two years of the ICCL Human Rights Film Awards as points of discussion for various human rights issues and as inspiration for student-made short films on human rights. The ICCL have recently launched a Human Rights Film Award specifically for young people, entitled 'Human Rights in Under a Minute Challenge' - a new stream of the competition calling on young people to create their own 30-60 second human rights film. www.humanrightsfilmawards.org

Together with the film resource from the Irish Council for Civil Liberties each participant will receive a selection of other film resources at the workshop, including the following: *A View from Here* - from the Irish Wheelchair Association *Experiences of Childhood* - Development Media Workshop *The President of Ireland: Role and Functions* The Houses of the Oireachtas *2020 Vision - A Closer Look at Ireland's Environment* - from the Environmental Protection Agency Ireland and *the European Union* - from the European Commission

Schedule:

Mon, 21st March	7:00 to 9:30 pm	Carrick-on-Shannon Education Centre;
Tues, 22nd March	7:00 to 9:30 pm	Mayo Education Centre;
Wed, 23rd March	7:00 to 9:30 pm	Blackrock Education Centre;
Wed, 23rd March	7:00 to 9:30 pm	Drumcondra Education Centre;
Wed, 23rd March	7:00 to 9:30 pm	Limerick Education Centre;
Mon, 28th March	7:00 to 9:30 pm	Cork Education Support Centre;
Tues, 29th March	7:00 to 9:30 pm	Kildare Education Centre;
Tues, 29th March	7:00 to 9:30 pm	Laois Education Centre;
Wed, 30th March	7:00 to 9:30 pm	Galway Education Centre;
Wed, 30th March	7:00 to 9:30 pm	Kilkenny Education Centre;
Wed, 30th March	7:00 to 9:30 pm	Monaghan Education Centre;
Wed, 30th March	7:00 to 9:30 pm	Waterford Teachers' Centre

Eco-Unesco

Those schools that have registered for the **ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards 2011**, will be in with a chance of attending the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase and Awards Ceremony to be held on 11th May 2011, to meet with other young people and showcase your work. There are lots of great prizes to be won, an opportunity to meet experts and maybe even a chance to perform at the Annual Awards Ceremony. Teachers can keep updated on what's going on through the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards blog at: <http://ecounesco.wordpress.com>. Eco-Unesco wants to hear from teachers throughout the year so if you have an article, comment, pictures or want to promote an event for your project just get in touch.

The New Government - Taoiseach and Ministers

	<p>Enda Kenny, <i>Taoiseach</i></p>		<p>Eamonn Gilmore, <i>Tánaiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade</i></p>
	<p>Michael Noonan, <i>Minister for Finance</i></p>		<p>Joan Burton, <i>Minister for Social Protection</i></p>
	<p>James Reilly, <i>Minister for Health</i></p>		<p>Ruairi Quinn, <i>Minister for Education and Skills</i></p>
	<p>Leo Varadkar, <i>Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport</i></p>		<p>Brendan Howlin, <i>Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform</i></p>
	<p>Alan Shatter, <i>Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence</i></p>		<p>Pat Rabbitte, <i>Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources</i></p>
	<p>Frances Fitzgerald, <i>Minister for Children</i></p>		<p>Jimmy Deenihan, <i>Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs</i></p>
	<p>Phil Hogan, <i>Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government</i></p>		<p>Richard Bruton, <i>Minister for Enterprise, Jobs and Innovation</i></p>
	<p>Simon Coveney, <i>Minister for Agriculture, Marine and Food</i></p>		

European Year of Volunteering



2011 has been designated the *European Year of Volunteering* by the European Union, both to celebrate the work of volunteers across Europe, and to encourage those who do not currently volunteer, to get involved so they too can make a difference. President Mary McAleese is patron for the event. The local body for promoting this initiative is Volunteering Ireland. A new website has been set up for the event and is available at <http://eyv2011.ie/>

The site features a section for schools and colleges, where lots of ideas for student volunteering can be found.

Census 2011

The next census will be undertaken on 10th April next. A key component of the success of the census is to make the general public aware that it is happening and of the benefits of the census. The CSO has developed a dedicated census website, www.census.ie, which will provide information and assistance for the public in relation to the census, including a helpdesk facility. This will include CSPE lesson modules.



Senate 2011



Our Press Officer Bernadine O'Sullivan will be running for the Senate (NUI Panel) in the upcoming election. Bernadine is a founder member of the Association and has served previously as treasurer. She has also been President of the Association of Secondary Teachers.

Citizenship Report

The International Civic and Citizenship (ICCS) Report for Ireland has been published (March 2011). The report, and accompanying brochure, can be accessed at www.erc.ie. Some highlights: Irish students performed well above the international average, ranking seventh. Irish performance is similar to Poland, Sweden and Switzerland. The highest scoring countries are Finland and Denmark. A majority of students in Ireland (87%) reported that they expect to vote in future national elections, which is higher than the international average (81%). There is evidence of progress in attitudes towards equal gender rights since 1971. For example, in a similar study conducted in 1971, 22% of students agreed that 'women should stay out of politics' and in 2009, just 7% agreed with this statement.



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