

Tipp schools to exhibit class projects at RDS Primary Science Fair

Primary school students representing 120 schools including from across the island of Ireland will display their class projects at the RDS Primary Science Fair from January 10-12, 2013. The schools include three from North Tipperary – Gaelscoil Aonach Urmhumhan, Nenagh, Kildangan NS and Scoil Eoin Naofa, Roscrea. The RDS Primary Science Fair takes place alongside the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition and provides an opportunity for approximately 3,000 primary school students to showcase their class STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) projects, receive feedback from experts in the field and learn from viewing other projects at a major exhibition.

The 120 participating schools represent 24 counties in the north and south of Ireland with 4th, 5th and 6th class students aged between 9 and 12 years of age will display their class projects in a specially designated RDS Primary Science Fair Zone of the Exhibition.

The title of Gaelscoil Aonach Urmhumhan's project is 'An féidir linn fuinneamh eile a úsáid chun bréagáin a bhogann a chruthú' which will be displayed on the Friday as will the project by pupils from Kildangan NS which is entitled 'Butt out – what effect does tobacco have on living things'. Scoil Eoin Naofa be showcasing their project entitled 'Is it possible to construct a poly-tunnel to grow vegetables using recycled materials' on Thursday.

The RDS Primary Science Fair is not a competition, the emphasis is to encourage child-led investigation and for students to learn how to work scientifically and develop practical inquiry based skills. Students work as a class under the supervision of their teacher on a project which should seek to pose and answer a question related to the primary science curriculum. Questions under investigation by primary schools at the 2013 Fair include:

- ⊙ What would happen if earthworms didn't exist?
- ⊙ What type of hurling ball will travel furthest and why?
- ⊙ Can you use a broken ruler to measure accurately?

The RDS Primary Science Fair takes place from Thursday, January 10 to Saturday, January 12, 2013 at the RDS with 40 different schools showcasing their class project on each day of the Fair. For further information on the RDS Primary Science Fair and a full list of participating schools and their projects, please visit www.rds.ie/primarysciencefair.

Since 1731, the RDS has continued to further the broad economic and cultural development of Ireland. The RDS Primary Science Fair is part of the RDS Foundation Science and Technology programme which aims to encourage the development of science and mathematical skills in primary school aged children by fostering education innovation.

RTÉ Radio 1's Arena to Run On-Air Creative Writing Course

RTÉ Radio 1's popular arts and culture programme Arena launched a free, on-air creative writing course on Tuesday December 4 which continues on the first Tuesday of the month thereafter throughout 2013.

The course, entitled New Planet Cabaret, will see writer, poet, performer and creative writing teacher Dave Lordan discuss, deconstruct and demystify the process of writing covering a wide range of topics and genres such as poetry, short story writing, novel writing, writing for theatre, crime fiction, song lyrics and how to get published, to name but a few. Each month, Dave will set out assignments for followers of the course, who will then be invited to send their submissions in to arena@rte.ie for review by Dave Lordan and the Arena team.

The course is being run in association with New Island Books – Ireland's leading literary publishers – and, in addition to potentially having their submitted work read on Arena, selected submissions will also be put forward for inclusion in a book published by New Island.

Dave Lordan currently teaches contemporary critical theory and poetic practice on the MA in Poetry Studies at Dublin City University. Dave also teaches creative writing at primary, secondary, third, and adult education levels. An internationally acclaimed poet, he was the first to win Ireland's three national prizes for young poets. He is the current holder of the Ireland Chair of Poetry Bursary Award and previous winner of both the Patrick Kavanagh and Strong Awards for poetry.

New Planet Cabaret will also feature guest contributions from acclaimed writers such as Nick Kelly, Colm Keegan and Kathy D'Arcy to name but a few.

Arena is broadcast on RTÉ Radio 1 at 7.30pm.

New Irish NETs cancer patient support group launched

A new support group, called Net Patient Network, for people dealing with a rare form of cancer, Neuroendocrine Tumours (NETs) was launched on Worldwide NET Cancer Awareness Day, in the Stanley Quek Lecture Theatre, Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute, Trinity College, 152-160 Pearse Street, Dublin 2.

Now in its third year, Worldwide NET Cancer Awareness Day aims to raise awareness about endocrine or hormone-producing tumours and the need for timely detection, diagnosis and treatment; bring hope to NET cancer patients, their caregivers and families; and drive action. More than 50% of NET patients are incorrectly diagnosed and initially treated for the wrong disease, for three to seven years on average[i]. Often the correct diagnosis is not made until the cancer has spread (metastasized). The need for better awareness and understanding of NET cancers is underscored by the coverage of the recent death of Steve Jobs, former Apple CEO. Mr. Jobs had a pancreatic neuroendocrine tumour (pNET), a slow growing and rare cancer that is often confused with the more aggressive pancreatic cancer, which many reports said he had.

The director of the National Cancer Control Programme, Dr Susan O'Reilly opened the patient support group event and outlined the model she sees the Irish health service developing for people with NETs. And in a unique development, leading international as well as Irish experts dealing with carcinoid cancer from Dublin, Cork, Galway and Uppsala, Sweden, a recognised international centre of excellence for the treatment of carcinoid cancer participated in a Question & Answer session with patients.

The experts included Dan Granberg and Barbro Eriksson of University Hospital, Uppsala and Professor Dermot O'Toole, Gastroenterologist, Saint James' Dublin, Donal O'Shea, Endocrinologist, Saint Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, Cristóir O'Suilleabhain, Surgeon, Mercy Hospital, Cork, Greg Leonard, Oncologist, University College Hospital, Galway and Derek Power, Oncologist, Mercy Hospital, Cork.



Pictured at the launch of the NETs Cancer Patient Support Group, Network are L-R: Marie O'Donoghue, Tom O'Donoghue, Tipperary, RTE's Tommie Gorman, with Jackie Hannon & Mary Hannon, Tipperary.

Although they are usually slow-growing cancers, NETs are difficult to detect and diagnose. They can occur in different parts of the body but are most often found in the gastrointestinal tract, including the small and large intestines, stomach and appendix, and in the lungs. Worldwide NET Cancer Awareness Day organizers hope that the campaign will raise awareness of these cancers and reduce the number of undiagnosed or misdiagnosed tumours.

Commenting on the launch of the new Irish support group, RTÉ's Northern Editor Tommie Gorman, who is a principal organiser of the group and has been dealing with the rare form of cancer for almost 20 years said: "At the meeting, we teased out issues like where are the best places in Ireland to receive care, what are the improvements we need, how can we get access to treatment in places like Sweden when we need it. It is encouraging that the person who has overall charge of shaping cancer care services, Dr Susan O'Reilly opened our meeting and sat in on our discussions. This gave us a wonderful opportunity to help shape the services that we need to stay alive and healthy."

At the meeting, the Chairperson and Committee of the support group was selected. Commenting on his new

role, Chairperson Mark McDonald, a 47-year-old married father-of-three, said: "I am delighted to be selected as Chairman of our new patient support group, NET Patient Network. I hope we can establish our fledgling organisation as a strong and active support network for new and existing

NET patients in Ireland. "As a recently diagnosed patient, I found it very difficult to find reliable information about the disease and specifically what treatments and services are available in Ireland. www.NETPatientNetwork.ie will provide a central location of information for

new and existing patients and with specific emphasis on Irish services. Having an active community of patients in every county in Ireland will be enormously helpful to patients to cope with and to manage their disease."

Maths for Fun!



The parents of Redwood NS are back at school with their children playing maths games together for a new initiative called "Maths for Fun!"