



**Maynooth  
University**  
National University  
of Ireland Maynooth

# **machnamh**



## **Meitheamh 2020**

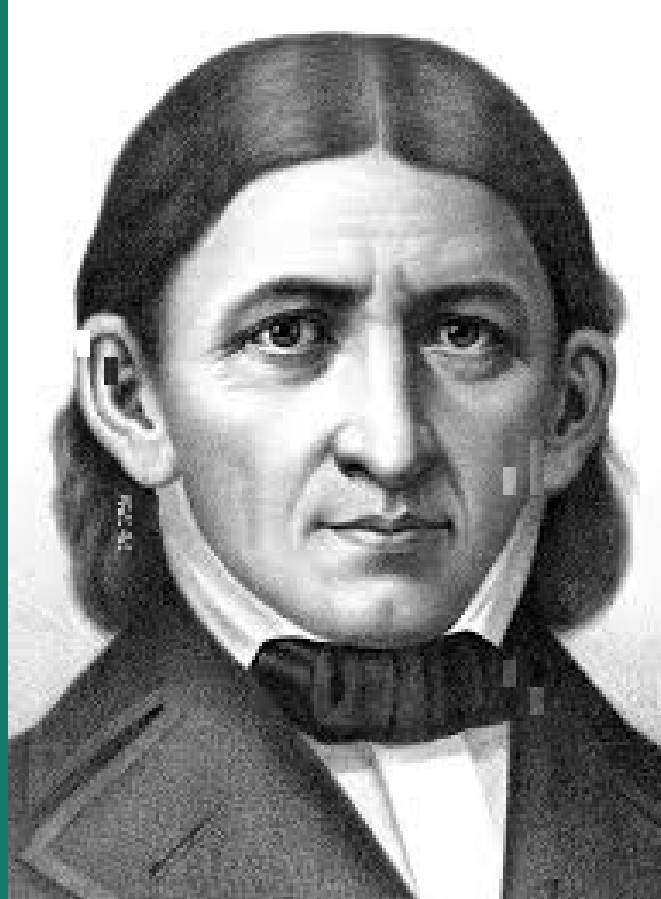


### **Issue 8**



**Froebel Department of Primary  
and Early Childhood Education**

# **Mission Statement of the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education**



Guided by the philosophy of Friedrich Froebel and the principles and values of Maynooth University, our mission is to prepare and inspire caring educators in their pursuit of excellence in teaching, learning and research towards the holistic education of every child in a changing Ireland.

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## **Preface and Acknowledgements**

### **Adam Carroll**

Welcome one and all to the eighth edition of Machnamh!

Since its conception, Machnamh has sought to become a focal point for celebrating the achievement of staff and students, as well as to act as a historical document recording the hectic daily life led by all in the Froebel Department.

It is with great pride that I present to you the fourth student-led publication of Machnamh. In prefacing this publication, I would again like to acknowledge and thank Séamie O'Neill for presenting us with this venture into Dissolving Boundaries in Educational Leadership.

Furthermore, we would like to thank each and every one of you that have contributed to this issue of Machnamh, especially Ciara O'Donnell and Chloe Mather (both BEd Year 3) for their help in publishing and editing this edition. This publication could not have been achieved without the diligence and professionalism conveyed by all involved.

Go raibh maith agaibh.

*Adam Carroll*

B.Ed Year 4



A chairde, a chomhghleachaithe, mic léinn na roinne, teaghlach Katherine - Frank, Ray agus Marie, Christine agus Roger, Phelim agus Karla, is mór an onóir dom cúpla focal a rá ar son Roinn Froebel, Maigh Nuad faoi Katherine ag an ócáid seo chun saol Katherine a cheiliúradh.

Most of you of course will know that Katherine worked in the Froebel College as a Lecturer in Visual Arts. Few of you may know that she actually served over 20 years in that role. During those years, she has given tremendous service to the College and has left an incredible legacy.

She started out her career with Froebel on a casual part-time basis at a time when Froebel was still a very small, hidden gem of a College founded by the Dominicans in Sion Hill, Cross Ave, Blackrock. She and Patsy, one of her many loved, loyal and long-standing friends and colleagues, were the two longest serving staff members in Froebel. Both started there back in 1998.

In recent visits to Katherine whilst ill, she talked about those early years in Froebel and recalled dropping in to Sr Darina's office at the end of each academic year - lingering on to say a long good bye, thanking Darina for the

experience, making small talk, never knowing, but always wishing and hoping that she would be invited back the following September. So, when the time came, when Katherine received full-time status in the College, needless to say, she was absolutely delighted.

Everyone who knew Katherine in Froebel, Blackrock knew she drove to work every day in a bottle green Nissan Primera...which she fondly called - The Green Ornament. Towards the latter years of our time in Blackrock, every now and then, Katherine would appear into work with a fresh glow and slight tint on her cheeks, even some beads of perspiration on her forehead. The odd time, she had taken to cycling into work on her high Nelly - or Kitty as she called it, after her late mother - most of the time only taking it on a one-way journey. To cycle it back was too much like exercise for Katherine!

As you have heard, Katherine studied Art in College and Visual Arts, as a subject, was privileged in the Froebel curriculum affording it additional hours above and beyond other subjects. This was justified on the basis that it reflected the emphasis on developing creativity and imagination in the Froebel philosophy. It was always a two-person department and Laura joined the Visual Arts Department and as with Katherine, had to earn her stripes before becoming permanent. Together, as a team, they have been exceptionally influential in shaping excellence in the teaching of Art amongst Froebelian graduates.

In the Blackrock Froebel campus, there were two large Visual Arts Workshops. Katherine inhabited the larger one - hidden away on the top floor of St Thomas's wing. From her room, she had access to the rooftop of St Thomas' building, which was where she retreated at intervals for a smoke and enjoyed stunning views of Dublin Bay on a clear day. Multi-tasking, I have to say, wasn't one of Katherine's strong points, but somehow, when the sun shone on that roof top, Katherine found a way to mark assignments whilst also topping up her tan. She loved a bit of sun.

Her art room - in a Katherine-organised way - was like a magpie's nest. Weird and wonderful objects adorned her room ...a goat's skull, driftwood from the beach, branches, rocks and shells. ...every shade of tissue paper, remnants of recycled paper, glitter, balls of twine and thread, feathers, trimmings, lace and ribbons; thread, spools, old bits of wire and lids, magazines; card, buttons and brushes, all kinds of coloured, textured fabric etc etc Katherine demonstrated frugality and prudence ... dumping nothing... saving everything... She hated waste...recycling, reusing, reducing - a lady well before her time.

She was considered an exceptional visual arts lecturer, skillful in guiding students through the creative, artistic process, fostering confidence in students who had little or no experience of art, helping them find their inner artist. Katherine had very high standards and students rose to her high expectations both in the classroom as student teachers and in the art room.

Katherine took her time when attending to her work. She was fastidious in her work practices giving everything due attention, preparing assiduously with care and thoughtfulness. Everything she did was done slowly and carefully - an approach that today might fashionably called mindful.

In spending so much time with our colleagues in today's working life, you get to know your colleagues sometimes better than you know your own family. We all knew Katherine to have a wicked, devilish sense of humour. She had a particular ability to latch on to incidents that happened in College, and with the quickest of wit she could coin a phrase that just stuck... turning the seriousness of everyday academic life entirely on its head. She christened students and staff with nicknames... AK... Maire Knickers, Brianie, Ned, Loretta as Katherine affectionately called Laura.... Or Marie - me auld pal....

She loved practical jokes...be it a hand from a shop mannequin that would tap you on the shoulder with the question 'Do you need a hand?' or persuading Boston Firemen to give her a ride around Boston on the fire-truck until she was promptly asked to leave because they had to attend to an actual fire. With these incidences, we remember Lally's infectious laugh and that contagious smile.

Katherine always played music as she worked either in the Art workshop or her office (often to the annoyance of others on the corridor it must be said). To the amusement



of students, she danced around her classroom at times, and during the graveyard 5-6pm slot on a Tuesday, I have it on good authority, she made students skip around the room lasooing the air to gee them up!! She had a refreshing capacity to be silly at times and brought a “devil-me-care” attitude when it came to what other people thought. She was what most people have described her – Irreverent at best or simply – stone mad. She never lost this sense of fun and you always had a laugh when visiting her, even when she was in her last stages of life.

Alongside all of that humor and irreverence, she had an exceptionally kind and generous heart. She was especially considerate to new staff members, making a special effort to welcome them into the fold. Katherine was particularly kind to admin and ancillary staff and showed remarkable measures of kindness and generosity to them – all under the radar. Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann.

More than anything, what stands out for me in Katherine was the way in which she flagrantly flaunted her humanity... never concealing or suppressing her frailties, her quirkiness, her idiosyncrasies. Katherine was fierce in her honesty, bold in her authenticity, unashamedly frank and bravely candid.... There was a fearlessness, a feistiness in her... She wasn't afraid to call people out ... or calling a spade a spade...What she said she meant, and what she meant she said, whether you liked it or not and I admired her bravery in that honesty.

She was insightful, able to assess situations and weigh people up. She could sniff out fakeness and artificiality and had zero tolerance for insincerity. And so, towards the end, this self-honesty meant that she showed no inhibitions in confronting her destiny head-on and she had no difficulty whatsoever in saying what she wanted to say before she departed us...

Very early on in my time in Froebel, I came to realize, it was worth spending time in this lady's company - not only was she such enjoyable, engaging, entertaining company but she was a woman of substance, a woman of complexity, a woman with exceptionally strong educational beliefs and values... that were founded on depth of knowledge and insightful intellect. In spending time with Katherine, you left her not just feeling like you knew more but strangely, you felt like you were more.

Through her twenty odd years in Froebel, Katherine became a devout Froebelian but not one who merely espoused the philosophy. She knew the philosophy intimately, deeply. Indeed, I would even go to say she embodied it - in her unique individuality, in her giftedness; in how she exuded beauty in her distinctive style and smile, and in how she imbued creativity and imagination in her students, one who was student-centric - indeed human-centric.

Today, Katherine leaves an enviable legacy to the Froebelian community.

- She established a Froebel Archive, which was launched by President Mary McAleese back in 2010 to coincide with the opening of St Thomas' wing on the Froebel College site in Blackrock. It is now housed in the Foyer of the School of Education in Maynooth. Katherine single-handedly insisted on having this positioned where it currently resides.

- She developed a video on the life and times of Friedrich Froebel - called Then and Now, tracing the life and influence of Froebel up to our final few years in Blackrock.

- The Education building, which we now inhabit in Maynooth was designed by St. John Handley, from Scott Tallon Walker and I quote him "Katherine gave me a crash course on the teachings and philosophy of the Froebel principles!" Consequently, the concept underpinning the design of the build was based on Froebel's blocks.

- She was one of the Founding members of the Froebel Week during which she always diligently organized trips for student into the Museums and Galleries in town.

- She represented the Froebel Department on the International Froebel Society Executive Committee in London and was a committed attendee at the biennial conferences. In my time, she never missed one International Froebel Conference - the most recent one she attended in Hiroshima with Patsy and I; Collectively, she nicknamed us the Japanese Jezebels.

- To my knowledge, she never missed the annual Froebel Ball. Indeed only a few days before she passed, she wrote an email to the students organizing committee to send her apologies that she was unable to attend. We know she will be there in spirit...
- She was the founder of the Froebel Gift Award - an award which acknowledges BEd and PMEd students who demonstrate exceptional Froebelian practices; This Award will be renamed in her memory henceforth as 'The Katherine Lally, Froebel Gift Award'.

And so, today, we remember an exceptionally dedicated Froebelian, a committed colleague, a huge loss to the Froebelian community and a great friend.

Over the last week and a half, there has been a steady stream of people who came to sign the Book of Condolences, which was placed in a beautiful memorial space assembled beautifully by Laura in the Froebel Department.

She would have been humbled to read the messages left there ... especially those, which reflect the huge impact she left on her students and subsequently on the children in the primary classrooms taught by her graduates.

As teachers we often talk about becoming a teacher to make a difference in the lives of children. Being a teacher educator, in teaching the teachers, you carry an even greater potential for making an impact through the multiplier effect. I would love Katherine to know the influence she had... To quote one student's message You made me believe that everyone can be an artist and I hope to pass that on to every child I teach.

I think it is fitting to finish this tribute with words from one of Froebel's nursery songs. Placed in the Froebel Archive, Katherine had positioned an old book of Froebel's Songs, Games and Stories, opened and left on display on page 82. Froebel often used plants, seeds, flowers and gardens as metaphors for children in his writing...

I leave with this and if Katherine were here, listening to this Nursery Song called the Garden Gate as a metaphor for the impact she has left on all the students she taught in her 20 years in Froebel...

## *The Garden Gate*

What can this be?

A door to the Garden, I see.

Through its tall, arching gateway we will go,  
And see how all (y)our pretty flowers grow.

There are so many, and they're very sweet,  
Fresh ones on every upright stalk we meet;

Each little bud in its green cup is set.

See here are some not quite unfolded yet.

Sometimes the little buds grow two and two

Or hold each other's hands as children do.

And now let us shut tight this door of (y)ours  
That no one may disturb (y)our pretty flowers.

Go gently Katherine.... We wish you rest.... Codladh Sámh agus Suaimhneas Síoraí

*by Professor Marie McLoughlin*



## ECER 2020 Conference

In January 2020, Eddie Costello of the Froebel Department and Zerrin Doganca Kucuk of the Education Department submitted an abstract to ECER2020 Conference. The title of the submission was 'The Problem of Enactment: Approximations of practice in primary teacher mathematics education'. The submission was accepted with high scores from the reviewers.

Well done, Eddie!



## Publication in the International Journal of Research and Method in Education

*by Suzanne O'Keeffe*

I recently co-wrote an article with Craig Skerritt, about the tools used in research to explore the lives of others. Using data collected from primary and secondary school teachers, we put forward a case for merging philosophy with methodology, placing emphasis on the process rather than the product of research. In other words, we argued that philosophical concepts should be used from within the research process rather than forced upon thinking at a later stage. We did this by advocating the works of philosophers Jacques Derrida (1930 - 2004) and Gilles Deleuze (1925 - 1995). and, more specifically, the philosophical position of poststructuralism. As a method it puts forward alternative ways of knowing, which allow for new understandings to emerge. It unsettles institutions such as education and schooling and assists in stretching and altering previous ways of knowing.



Congratulations Suzanne!

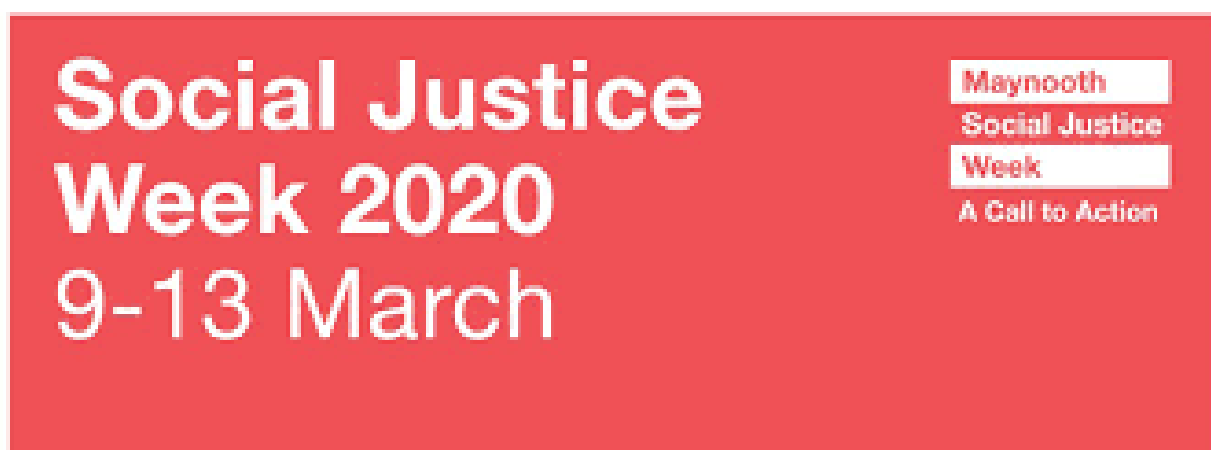


## Gender and Development Education Seminar

In March 2020, as part of Social Justice Week, the Froebel Department hosted a seminar in conjunction with the Centre for Global Education in Belfast.

This event was organised to present and debate the content of Issue 29 of the Centre for Global Education's bi-annual, open access, peer reviewed journal Policy and Practice: A Development Education Review.

The theme of the seminar was 'Development Education and Gender' and focused on the largely under-explored relationship between feminist epistemological frameworks and their relevance for development education. It was great to have so many feminist development educators visit Froebel on the one day!



## Maynooth University gains University of Sanctuary Status



In February 2020, Maynooth University was officially designated as a University of Sanctuary in recognition of its initiatives to promote a culture of welcome for refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants into the community.

The University marked its designation by bringing together poets, students, academics, journalists and civil society actors to discuss the meaning of Ireland as a true place of sanctuary.

Aoife Titley has represented the Froebel Department on the Sanctuary Committee since September 2018 and the Froebel Department continues to work with the children of asylum seekers through a number of different educational initiatives.

Keep up the good work, Aoife!

## **DICE Research**

### **Diversity in Teaching Research Symposium**

In November 2019, Aoife Titley spoke at the School of Education in NUIG on the topic of diversifying primary teaching.

Diversifying initial teacher education, and the teaching profession in general, has been of research and policy significance for some time, and since 2017 has been operationalised in practice (in Ireland) through projects funded by the Higher Education Authority.

The symposium was an invitation-based event in order to elicit core learning from national research projects in recent years. Aoife spoke about her research with minoritized ethnic young people interested in pursuing a career in primary teaching.

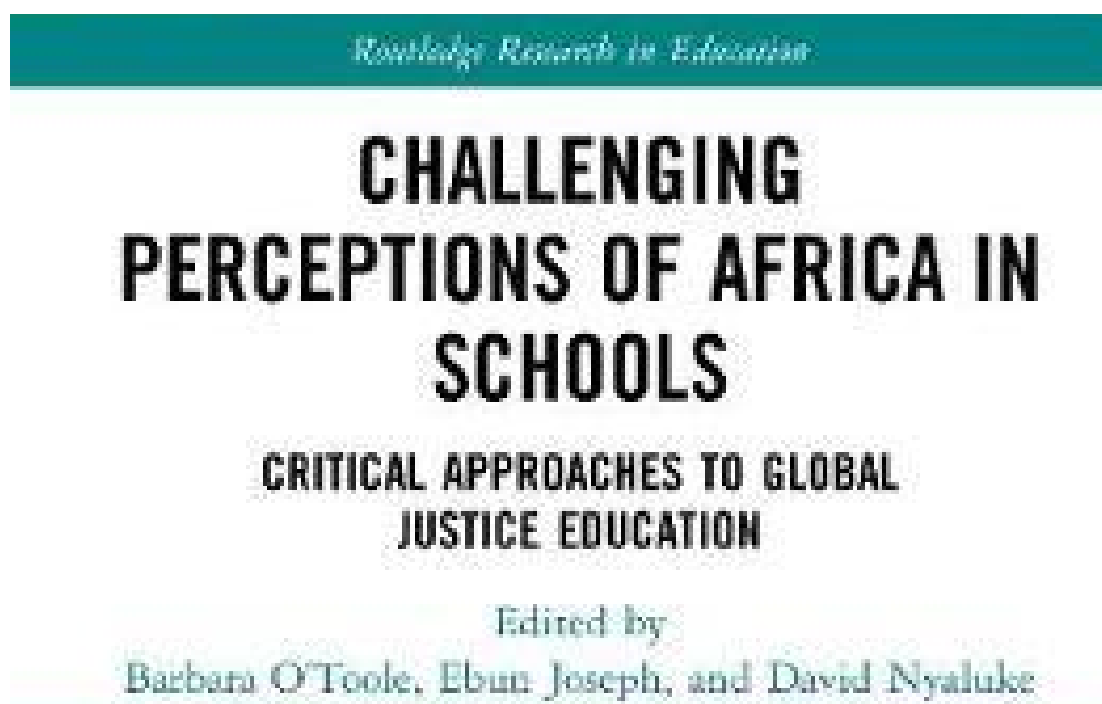


## **Challenging Perceptions of Africa in Schools**

In March 2020, a new book challenging educational discourse in relation to teaching about Africa was published by Routledge.

This book examines all levels of the education system in the Global North, with a specific focus on the Republic of Ireland. The editors of the book are Dr. Barbara O'Toole, Dr. Eburn Joseph and Dr. David Nyaluke.

Aoife Titley has a chapter in this publication entitled 'Africa as pedagogical playground: Problematising sending programmes for teachers'.



# **machnamh - Staff Research/Student Learning**

## **Joint research in MU and DCU receives grant**

In December 2019, a joint research application of MU and DCU to the Froebel Trust Open Call was awarded £31,590. The Froebel Trust is a UK-based charity which promotes the practice of Froebelian principles for teaching and learning in the 21st century. The successful research project title was: 'Froebelian Principles in the 21st Century: Play environments and play opportunities for young children who experience stress.'

The project outcomes are:

- To conduct a critical, participatory investigation into the conditions and opportunities of play experienced by young children growing up in adverse conditions, especially homelessness and forced migration, in Ireland.
- To open a space for early childhood educators and families to engage in meaningful dialogue about the value, meaning and importance, and reality of play in the lives of their young children.
- To co-create new shared understandings and concrete action to improve the play opportunities experienced by young children in participating early childhood settings.
- To systematically document these processes to co-create new knowledge enabling Froebelian principles to be introduced to the Irish early childhood policy context, providing evidence-based practice to influence the Irish government's 10-year early childhood strategy.

# **machnamh - Staff Research/Student Learning**

## **Joint research in MU and DCU receives grant**

This is the first Froebel Trust Irish funded application representing early childhood. The research team from the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education are Annette Kearns, Professor Marie Mcloughlin, Dr Leah O' Toole, Patsy Stafford and Dr Triona Stokes. The research project has been funded for a two-year period from January 2020.

Congratulations to all involved from the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education in Maynooth University!

And, of course, best of luck with your ongoing research.





L-R: Evelyn Paul (Y4), Mura Tierney (GOAL), Mary Van Lieshout (GOAL), Dr Triona Stokes, Professor Marie McLoughlin, Feargal Brougham (INTO), Emma Palmer (Y4).

Infant teaching resource, 'Water, Come to Me!' was launched by INTO President, Feargal Brougham at Maynooth University on 19 November 2019. The Development Education resource was written by Dr Triona Stokes, Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, in partnership with humanitarian aid agency, GOAL. Presented in eight lessons for junior and senior infants, dance and drama are used to explore the theme of female agency through a little girl's daily journey for water in Burkina Faso. Froebel students, Evelyn Paul, Orla Maher and Emma Palmer piloted the lessons on their infant School Placement as Third Year students. Their insight and feedback were invaluable in helping to shape the resource for use in schools. Triona would like to thank Evelyn, Orla and Emma for their input and she would also to acknowledge the support of DICE Lecturer, Aoife Titley, in the creation of the resource.

Through the cross-curricular approach adopted, critical questions about water use and access in Ireland are raised. Following the artistic exploration, a follow-up lesson offers an age-appropriate examination of the related Sustainable Development Goals in moving towards a call to action.

## Gaiety School of Acting Intercultural Education Workshop

In February, Y3 Froebel students participated in an intercultural education workshop facilitated by the education team of the Gaiety School of Acting.

The facilitators used drama-based pedagogical tools such as creative drama, process drama, role-play, storytelling and theatre games to explore themes such as inclusion, othering, empathy, active citizenship and empowerment.

The workshops were part of the Grow from Seeds Erasmus funded project and were organized for Froebel students as a joint DICE/ Drama initiative (Triona Stokes and Aoife Titley).





## Journeys by *Eva Cullen*



During our time in this module, although cut short, we covered an enormous amount of content, broke down stereotypes and built up new understandings. It's fair to say that our thinking and attitudes changed and evolved from beginning to end, well mine did at least. Conversations ebbed and flowed throughout each session with no two people contributing the same thing. The atmosphere of openness and the dialogic nature of the module was probably what I enjoyed most. It almost felt like we, the students, were leading each session with the help of Aoife's immaculate and insightful presentations, Laura's thought-provoking one-liners and Brian's endless collection of anecdotes.

The focus of each always being to take apart and re-examine our opinions and perceptions of the people, culture and traditions in India. I had always wanted to take part in the trip to Kolkata, for both the experience of teaching in another country and for the opportunity to travel so far away with a strong support system. However, what I did not expect was how focussed and enthusiastic I would become about the module which accompanied the trip itself.

## ***Journeys by Eva Cullen***

Some of the topics we touched on included cultural responsiveness, colonialism and ethical representation. While many powerful colonisers around the world believe their impact on the colonised was nothing but beneficial having introduced democracy, modern currency and the English language, the detrimental impact of their departure is not often recognised. It is true to say that Britain's colonisation of India had some benefits for the latter however what many don't see is what was left (or wasn't left) after Britain's departure. The once ruling class of the infamous Caste system were now suddenly absent, and a gap was left to be filled in the highest tier of society. Those who depended on the ruling class to support their livelihoods were now stranded in between cultures and in between tiers, accepted by neither the highest nor lowest classes of society. On the other end of the spectrum were those at the lowest levels of the Caste system, those who could not free themselves from their designated place in society. Upon the withdrawal of the British, these people were also left to pick up the pieces, with little to no chance of new opportunities in the newly established government or improving their rank in society.

It was discussions like these, which really seemed to grow and develop in the class, often becoming a debate when Brian or Laura played 'Devil's Advocate'. Similarly, discussions like these helped to reshape our thinking and create new awareness of the country we would soon be travelling to.

## Journeys by *Eva Cullen*

Unfortunately, the trip itself was postponed due to Covid-19, which no one could have foreseen.

Regardless, the opportunity has not been lost just delayed. My hope is that the class of 2020 will take on the trip in 2021 with the same enthusiasm and fervour they showed up with each week.

After all, it is a journey and some journeys take different paths. In the words of Tony Robbins, American author and public speaker, "The only impossible journey is the one you never begin".



## **DICE Updates Froebel/Mosney Partnership**

For the last number of years, Froebel staff and students have volunteered to deliver summer and mid-term activity camps to the children of asylum seekers in the Mosney Direct Provision Centre.

In February 2020, we were delighted when 38 children and some of their parents visited the Froebel Department for the first time! As part of their visit, they had a tour of the south campus, listened to educational talks about careers in teaching and law; and participated in computational thinking activities with the Computer Science Department.

Thanks to Séamie O'Neill, Cliodhna Murphy, Damien Woods, Thomas Naughton, Taina Lehtimäki and Tristan Sterin for their help on the day with all of the various activities.

And many thanks to the 17 students who supported all the advance organization and planning, and volunteered on the day helping out with the children.

## ELeathanach

I mbliana thosaigh na daltaí agus na múinteoirí i gColáiste Mhuire, Baile Átha Cliath ag obair le Roinn Froebel ar an Eleathanach -áis léitheoireachta do pháistí bunscoile i rang a 5 agus a 6. Tá an t-ábhar dírithe ar pháistí le Gaeilge mhaith acu sna scoileanna ina bhfuil an Ghaeilge mar T2.

Ar ndóigh bheadh sé oiriúnach do pháistí ó rang a 4 ar aghaidh sna Gaelscoileanna agus scoileanna Gaeltachta chomh maith.

Tá an ELeathanach ar fáil i bhfoirm .pdf ar shuíomh Froebel: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/froebel-depar.../eleathanach>.

Tá obair bhreá déanta ag Coláiste Mhuire agus d'éirigh linn agallamh a chur ar phríomhoide na scoile, Oisín Mac Eoin.



## **ELeathanach**

### *1. Cá bhfuil do scoil suite?*

Tá Coláiste Mhuire suite ar Bhóthar Ráth Tó i mBaile Átha Cliath 7. Sa bhliain 1931 chuir na Bráithre Críostaí, Coláiste Mhuire ar bun chun meánoideachas lán-Ghaeilge a chur ar fáil. Sna laethanta luatha sin bhí an coláiste suite ar Shráid Fhearcair agus sa bhliain 1933 bhog siad go Cearnóg Pharnell. Tá Coláiste Mhuire anois faoi Iontoabhas Scoileanna Éamonn Rís. Cáil na hacadúlachta atá ag roinnt leis an scoil ón gcéad lá. Tá iarscoláirí aitheanta de chuid na scoile ar fáil sa saol gnó, sa pholaitíocht, sna meáin, sa saol acadúil, sa cheol, sa spórt agus sa Státseirbhís. Ó athlonnaíodh an scoil go Bóthar Ráth Tó i mí Lúnasa 2003, tá tús curtha ag Coláiste Mhuire le ré nua ach leis an mbunchloch ionraic céanna agus leis na caighdeáin arda céanna.

### *2. Cé mhéid dalta scoile atá sa scoil?*

Faoi láthair tá 280 scoláire ag freastal ar Choláiste Mhuire.

### *3. Cathain a thosaigh sibh ag obair le Roinn Froebel maidir leis an Eleathanach?*

Thosaíomar ag obair ar an Eleathanach le Roinn Froebel ag tús na scoilbhliana 2019-20 agus is mór againn go bhfuil an deis rí-luachmhar seo faighte againn.

## **ELeathanach**

*4. Cé hiad na daltaí scoile agus na múinteoirí a chabhraíonn leis an Eleathanach?*

Is iad iriseoirí óga na Chéad Bhliana agus a gcuid múinteoirí Gaeilge a bhíonn ag plé leis an Eleathanach agus baineann siad sásamh an diabhair as!

*5. Ar chuala sibh faoin Eleathanach sular thosaigh sibh ag obair le Roinn Froebel?*

Nach bhfuil clú agus cáil ar an Eleathanach ar fud na cruinne! Tá cur amach an-mhaith ag ár gcuid scoláirí ar an Eleathanach os rud é go raibh sé á léamh acu agus iad sa bhunscoil.

*6. An mbaineann na daltaí scoile úsáid as an Eleathanach i do scoil? Cad a dhéanann siad?*

Is aoibhinn leis na scoláirí bheith ag obair ar an Eleathanach. Scríobhann triúr nó ceathrar na scéalta don Eleathanach chuile sheachtain. Is mór an ónóir dóibh é. Ba mhínic a rinne na scoláirí iontas i rith na bliana, 'bhímis á léamh agus anois tá scéalta Eleathanach á scríobh againn!'

*7. An bhfuil aon rud deas beartaithe agat don samhradh?*

Táim ag súil go mór le ham sa bhreis a bheith agam le mo mhuintir, tá leabhair Ghaeilge le léamh agam agus déanfaidh mé an oiread traenála agus is féidir liom.

## ELeathanach

8. Tuigim go bhfuil an-ghrá agat don Ghaeilge, conas a spreagann tú an grá céanna i measc na ndaltaí i do scoil?

Ó na múinteoirí iontacha a bhí agam féin a tháinig mo chuid dúthrachta don Ghaeilge. Déanaimse iarracht i gcónaí mo ghrá don Ghaeilge a roinnt le héinne a d'éistfeadh liom! Tá súil agam go bhfuil scoláirí Choláiste Mhuire á spreagadh agam. Níl ach bliain curtha isteach agam mar phríomhoide anseo. Neosfaidh an aimsir is dócha!

Go raibh maith agat, Oisín.

Go n-éirí libh leis an ELeathanach i mbliana!

### Eleathanach 351


Dé Luain an 18 Bealtaine 2020

**Matt Damon anseo in Éirinn**

Tháinig Matt Damon go hÉirinn lena bhean chéile Luciana Barrosa agus a pháistí Isabella, Gia agus Stella i Mí an Mháirta. Bhí sé ag aisteoireacht sa scannán nua *The Last Duel*.

Ach ansin bhí orthu críoch a chur leis an scannán toisc go raibh ar mhuintir na hÉireann fanacht sa bhaile mar gheall ar an georóinvíreas.

Anois tá sé ina chónaí i gCill Iníon Léinín. Is breá leis an ceantar. Téann sé ag snámh san fharraige agus labhair sé ar Spin 103.8 Dé Céadaoin seo caite! Bhí ionadh ar gach duine agus bhí na láithreoirí, Graham agus Nat, ar bis.



#thereforyou  
Ireland

Tá mála SuperValu ina lámh!



#### Spraoi sa bhaile – OSIE

Tá áiseanna, pleananna ceachta, cluichí agus rapamhrán ar fáil saor in aisce trí Ghaeilge ar shuíomh AgroCycle Kids. <https://www.agrocycle-platform.com/>

Cabhróidh na háiseanna seo go mór le múinteoirí agus le daltaí scoile agus iad ag foghlaim sa bhaile. Tá na háiseanna istigh sa Seomra Acmhainní agus 'Spraoi sa Bhaile' an t-ainm atá orthu.

Tá a lán acmhainní ann a bhaineann leis an nádúr agus le hathrú aeráide. Tá na háiseanna seo bunaithe ar an taighde is déanaí maidir le hathrú aeráide. Bainigí taitneamh as na cluichí agus as an spraoi sa bhaile!



#### Cá raibh a bhriste?

An cuimhin libh Christopher Reeve? B' aisteoir cáiliúil é agus bhí an ról mar 'Superman' aige. Bhí a mhac Will Reeve ar an gclár 'Good Morning America' le déanaí. Is iriseoir é Will Reeve.

Bhí seaicéad agus léine air nuair a bhí sé ag taifeadh ach toisc go raibh sé sa bhaile níor bhac sé lena bhriste! Chonaic gach duine a d'fhéach ar an gclár teilifíse nach raibh briste air! Will Reeve bocht!!





## Master of Education - Research in Practice *by Dr. Bernadette Wrynn*



MEd Research in Practice Class of 2018-19

It has been another very successful year for our one-year master's programme (MEd Research in Practice). The graduating class of 2018-2019 were our first cohort and we are delighted to share in their success.

As part of our online component this year, students presented in June 2020 on their research activity conducted in their educational setting.

Students were able to share and discuss their self-study approach within an Action Research methodology with colleagues and associated agencies such as NEARI (Network for Educational Action Research) present to provide valuable and critical feedback.

## Master of Education - Research in Practice Presentations

On the topic of the Masters of Education, a series of presentations will be held using the Microsoft Teams online platform from 12th-13th June 2020. See the attached poster for more information.



### Invitation to Froebel Master of Education Presentations *Sharing Research in Practice* June 2020



#### Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>: 5pm to 6.15pm

- Engaging parents to enhance enjoyment of oral Irish
- My journey of self-understanding as a hospital school teacher
- Teaching cursive handwriting to Junior Infants

#### Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>: 6.30pm to 7.20pm

- Social and emotional development using the Nurture Group
- Meaningful partnerships with parents to engender social justice within my Early Years Setting

**Online access  
Through  
Microsoft  
Teams  
Invitations**

#### Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>: 9.30am to 10.45am

- Storytelling to facilitate vocabulary development in Irish
- Teaching to improve children's attitudes towards Maths
- Project-Based Learning for instructional writing

#### Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>: 11.00am to 11.50am

- Supporting pupils' oral language skills through socio-dramatic play
- Fostering independence by allowing children to make choices in their learning



#### Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>: 12.45pm to 2pm

- Promoting resilience in the classroom
- Teaching emotional literacy through picturebooks
- Developing Jnr. Infant oral language through ipads

#### Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>: 2.15pm to 3.30pm

- Use of Aistear to develop expressive language
- Rich Mathematics teaching and learning for pupil motivation
- Team teaching methods for Reading in the Senior primary class

## Froebel Department Awards for the Academic Year 2018-19



L-R: Thomas Cunningham, Professor Marie McLoughlin, Professor Philip Nolan, Aoife Ní Mhurchú, Áine Moore, Colm Keane.

The annual Froebel Department Awards were held on the 12th February 2020. Thomas Cunningham (BEd) was presented with the Carlisle and Blake Award. Aoife Ní Mhurchú (PMEd) and Áine Moore (BEd) were presented with the Froebel Gift Awards. Also, Aoife and Colm Keane (BEd) were recipients of the Vere Foster Award.

Congratulations to all!

## Froebel Class of 1986 visit Maynooth



L-R Séamie Ó Néill, Rosemary Galvin, Seán Ó hArgáin, , Marie Mullins, Brid Cahill.

We were delighted to welcome Froebel Graduates from 1986 to the School of Education Building in Semester 2. They were very impressed with the facilities.

## Dissertation Day



L-R (Clockwise): Donna Reilly Parrish, Hannah Lyons, Mairead Malone, Daniel Kelly, Orla Maher, Ailbhe Doherty, Jenny Egan, Alannagh Moylan, Shona Meagher.

Despite the unexpected hurdles we faced in completing our Action Research Project during the COVID 19 Emergency, with the incredible support from Aoife Titley and our dissertation supervisors, the excitement and pride on submission day wasn't diminished.



## Student Engagement with Primary Science



## The COVID-19 Experience *by Ciara O'Donnell*

Living through the COVID-19 pandemic has been a whirlwind of emotions. One minute we were in lectures, drinking overpriced coffee and casually discussing Covid-19 and what it might mean for us, and the next minute the closure of the college was announced and we were met with the daunting task of learning a semester worth of material from our homes while simultaneously facing a national lockdown. Brian Tubbert told us in first year that good teachers do not always succeed, but they always show up, and that is a notion that was truly embodied by Froebel students and staff during the Covid pandemic, albeit not physically.

There were many upcoming events in the remainder of semester two, including a trip to the Gaeltacht and the annual Froebel Ball. The pandemic indicated the cancellation of these plans, leaving many Froebels disappointed.

The Covid experience has taught us many things, instilling a greater appreciation for the small things, like having a chat in the Froebel room before your 9am lecture or crowding as many people as possible into the lift for a lecture in the Early Childhood room. It has been a tremendous challenge to contend with an entire semester of work in the midst of a global pandemic, but I am confident that we handled this challenge as best we could.

## **The COVID-19 Experience *by Ciara O'Donnell***

We don't know what the school environment will look like in a post-Covid world, but we remain hopeful that we can adapt to whatever scenarios unfold and we will face into this placement with our laminators and hand sanitisers in tow. We look forward to returning to Maynooth and regaining some semblance of normality for our final year of college, whether that is in September or January, and, dare I say it, that 90% attendance requirement is not looking so bad anymore.



## Student Sporting Success *by Tony Sweeney*

Following the success of the MU Camogie team last year, our Ladies Football team reached the national semi-finals of the Giles Cup. Gemma Harnett (PMEd1) started wing back and the forwards included Róisín Kavanagh (PMEd1), Niamh Forde (B.Ed2) and Orla O'Loughlin (B.Ed1) with Bronagh Lynn and Jennifer Barrett (both B.Ed2) amongst the subs.

Ciara O'Reardon (B.Ed3) played a starring role from centre back on the 2nd Ladies football team who defeated NUIG to reach the semi-final of the Donaghy Cup.

I believe Sarah McKeivitt (B.Ed3) scored the third goal for MU Soccer in a 3-1 win over home team UCC to reach the final of the CUFL.

Finally not to be outdone by the Froebel females, Adam Carroll (B.Ed4) was corner back on the MU Junior Men's football team that defeated UCD 3.11 to 2.9 to win the Leinster B Cup.



## MU Ladies GAA Team *by Róisín Kavanagh*

Maynooth ladies Gaelic football has brought great success to the university in the year 2019/20. As ladies from a variety of clubs and counties across the country gather together as one determined team, standards are raised, new perspectives of the game are introduced, and life long friendships are created.

Training in the cold winter evenings is made easy by such a fantastic team of players and management. Maynooth Ladies Gaelic Senior team had a fantastic year, making it to the Giles Cup weekend in Dingle, where colleges from around Ireland go head to head to fight for that winning title. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions this trip did not go ahead, however the spirit of the Maynooth Ladies Senior team was not dampened. This team have a fire in their belly to bring home that winning cup to Maynooth University next year!

A massive thank you to all the players for getting involved, and to all the management for dedicating their time and efforts into creating such a wonderful team.



## Outdoor Area Restoration by Aileen Ryan

At the beginning of this Academic Year, I was approached to assemble a small team to remodel the outdoor area on the third floor of the School of Education. I was extremely interested as I wanted to use the space to incorporate the Froebelian principles.

In September, a few enthusiastic volunteers began to design, create and build activities for the outdoor area suitable for young children. We decided we wanted to divide the area into separate stations. With this in mind, we planned our trip to ReCreate to gather resources.

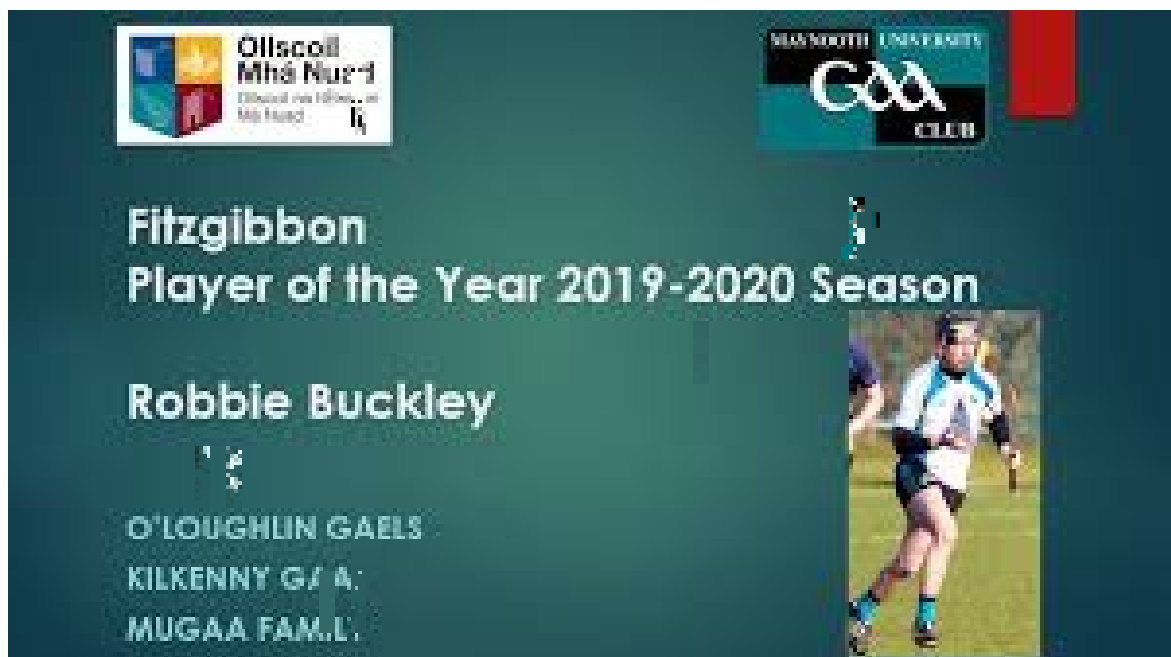
We spent two months cleaning, painting and building the activities and signs. Students from other year groups were then recruited to maintain the garden over the coming years. We were delighted with the outcome and happy to leave our mark on Maynooth University. We hope it will be fun and educational for many children and Froebel students alike in the future.



## Robbie is Fitzgibbon Player of the Year

Congratulations to PMEd Robbie Buckley on being named MUGAA's Fitzgibbon Hurling Player of the Year for 2019-20.

A great achievement from the O'Loughlin Gaels player!



## **MU Ladies Soccer *by Emer Gillen***

The MU Ladies Soccer team has been very successful over the last five years. This success comes from the hard work and dedication of the players and managers. There is a strong bond between each teammate, and we enjoy playing with each other. We train two days a week as well as a gym session once a week. It is important to continue training throughout the year to get a break from lesson plans, school placement and assignments.

We are currently in the premier division, each year we play every team in the division and the top two teams play a final to decide the winner. Last year we won the league, beating Carlow IT 1-0, this was a brilliant win for us as they were classed as favourites to win the league that year. The final day before lockdown this year we played a final against Ulster University, unfortunately we lost to a very strong team. We were disappointed to lose this match and felt we did not play to our full potential. One of our key players also broke her ankle in the second half which had an impact on our performance.

Each year we also play a competition called Intervarsities. This competition is played over two days, with one match per day. Last year the competition was held in Ulster University in Belfast. We were relieved to win our semi-final against Carlow IT in severe weather conditions. We then played UCC in the final.

## MU Ladies Soccer *by Emer Gillen*

Unfortunately, we were unlucky to lose on penalties. This year the competition was scheduled for Waterford. It was disappointing that it was cancelled due to the Coronavirus as the team believed that we had a good chance of winning. However, we will work even harder next year to continue the success of the MU Ladies Soccer.

