

iatse *Update*

WINTER UPDATE

WINTER 08

20TH IATSE ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The 20th Annual Conference was held in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra from the 12th to 14th June 2008. This year's title was "Enabling Communication". The Conference was opened by John Carr, General Secretary of the INTO. The keynote address entitled '**Creating A Communication Friendly Environment**' was delivered by Maggie Johnston a Speech and Language therapist and advisor specialising in childhood communication disorders and selective mutism. A reception followed the keynote address and this was hosted by Pauric Travers, President of St. Patrick's College. The CEC of the IATSE extends their sincere thanks to the college for their ongoing support for the organisation.



The following two days saw a range of presentations including research findings, educational projects and examples of best practice. Presenters come from all over Ireland as well as from England, Scotland, USA, China and India. Teachers from across the country, from across the sectors, mainstream and special schools participated. Several colleagues from related disciplines also attended- Special Needs Assistants, Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Speech & Language Therapists and Union Representatives joined us. On the Friday evening of Conference the CEC hosted a very enjoyable reception for the delegates in the Clock Tower in the Department of Education, Marlboro Street. Our visiting delegates, in particular, enjoyed the craic agus ceol provided, a great evening was had by all.



As IATSE president, I would like to, personally and on your behalf, thank Ann Jackson, the Conference Director, all the committee members, presenters, chairpersons and other people who helped make the conference a success for all who attended. Preparations are already underway for next year's conference, we look forward to bringing you another quality opportunity for professional development and networking!

Jerry Pierce

IATSE President, 2008

FAREWELL TO DR. JEAN WARE

IATSE bids a fond farewell to Dr. Jean Ware, Director of Special Education and Dean of Education with responsibility for Teaching and Learning at St. Patrick's College, Dublin. Dr. Ware is leaving St. Patrick's to take up a position as a reader at the University of Bangor in Wales. Dr. Ware joined the Special Education Department in 1998 and has overseen a period of rapid and considerable change in the Irish special education environment.

Dr. Ware obtained her primary degree and her MA from the University of Keele and trained as a teacher at Bulmershe College, Reading. She spent 10 years as a teacher of children with profound and multiple learning difficulties and severe learning difficulties before moving to the Institute of Education in London to complete a PhD on Provision for Pupils with PMLD. She worked as a University Lecturer in both London and Cardiff and as a consultant to a number of projects to produce materials for learners with multiple needs, before joining St. Patrick's College, where she has been primarily concerned with continuing professional development for teachers of pupils with special educational needs, from induction to EdD level. In addition, her leadership of the Special Education Department has promoted high-quality scholarship and research on challenging behaviour, literacy and disadvantage, profound and multiple learning difficulties and provision for special needs in early childhood, to name a few. Most recently she has directed The Review of Special Schools and Classes.

The CEC of IATSE and her colleagues and friends in special education extend sincere thanks to Dr. Ware for her significant contribution to developing the skills and expertise of Irish teachers and wish her every success in her new role. We also extend congratulations and good wishes to Dr. Joe Travers, who will assume the role of Director of Special Education in November.

Dermot McCullen, IATSE CEC

IATSE AGM 2008

Members are invited to attend the annual AGM which will take place in The Teachers' Club on Parnell Square on Saturday 22nd November. Coffee will be served from 10.30 am and the business of the meeting will begin at 11.00 am. A glass of wine and light refreshments will be served afterwards. We are pleased to announce that a guest speaker, Rory McDaid, will make a presentation on the theme of multiculturalism and special educational needs on the day.

IATSE WEBSITE

Our new look website is now up and running and we are grateful to CEC member Julie Cassidy, web designer Damian McGoohan, and members of the CEC who were involved in the revamp for their exhaustive work. The new and improved website will shortly feature an online facility to subscribe to the organisation. From June 2009, standing ban orders will no longer be accepted as we bring the organisation into the technological age. The options will be online subscription and payment by cheque or cash at conference. After some years at the rate of €30, membership was increased to €40 this year.

NEW APPOINTMENTS



In recent times several friends of IATSE have embarked on exciting new roles in their professional lives. Ann Jackson, long time member of the CEC and, in more recent years, director of the Annual IATSE Conference has recently embarked on a new challenge. She is now Principal of the Central Remedial Clinic School. Her friends and colleagues on the CEC would like to convey their sincere good wishes to Ann in her new position.

Ann Jackson (left)

Mary Byrne, former Senior Lecturer in Special Education at the Church of Ireland College and member of the REACH journal editorial committee has taken up a new position as advisor to the National Council for Special Education. She brings a wealth of experience to the role and the CEC extend their best wishes to Mary for the future. Best wishes also to David McKeon who replaces Mary as co-ordinator of Special Education at the CICE.

Government abolishes the Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education

The Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education (CECDE) was established in 2002 by the Department of Education and Science with the aim of developing and co-ordinating early childhood education. The Centre's brief covered children from 0 to 6 years of age in a wide variety of settings, including families, nurseries, crèches, playgroups, child minders, preschools and the infant classes of primary schools. Its mission was the development of standards that would make the early years of every child's life formative in the best possible way.

The CECDE developed Siolta, a National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education in Ireland, which was launched in May 2006 by Brian Lenihan who described it at the time as ground breaking. They had embarked on the implementation of Siolta in over 100 services and it had the potential to transform the provision of early childhood in Ireland. The CECDE had also undertaken and published its own research as well as funding and supporting PhD studentships and targeted projects in the area of educational disadvantage and special needs.

All social partners in Ireland support the investment in and development of early childhood education. Internationally, many advisory bodies such as UNICEF and the OECD recommend

increased attention to pre-school education as a measure to support individual children and families and also as an effective intervention to boost economic competitiveness as a society.

The quality of early childhood education provides the basis of learning and was a critical factor in tackling educational disadvantage. The abolishment of the centre will mean a significant loss of expertise and capacity in the implementation of Siolta and a disengagement from Government commitments to the early childhood sector and to commitments under educational disadvantage.

The development and monitoring of standards in early childhood needed an independent voice and that voice has been silenced. The government savings have been minimal and loss for our children incalculable. The CEC of the IATSE wish to acknowledge and thank Heino Schonfeld, director of the centre, and his team for the quality of work that has been undertaken by them. We wish them well and hope they can continue to contribute to the development of this critical area into the future.

Anna Lombard

IATSE CEC

For your Diary

IATSE AGM –

Teachers' Club, Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Saturday, 22nd November

Please come along and support your organisation, meet up with old friends and maybe make some new ones too!

NABMSE -

AGM & Conference 2008

This year's AGM & Conference will take place in the Tullamore Court Hotel, on the 20th and 21st of November 2008.

IPPN

Conference 2009 - Thursday, January 29th - Saturday, January 31st - INEC, Killarney

Reach Journal

What is REACH journal?

REACH Journal is the journal of Special Needs Education in Ireland and is published twice yearly by the Irish Association of Teachers in Special Education. It is the association's official journal. It aims to be a resource for teachers of pupils with special needs and for other professionals through the publication of articles reflecting research findings, good practice and international perspectives. It wishes to promote co-operation and understanding between teachers across the spectrum of educational settings, including primary, post-primary schools and special schools. It aims to engage parents, service providers, policy makers and people with disabilities themselves in fruitful dialogue.

REACH Journal of Special Needs Education in Ireland also publishes papers presented at the Annual Conference for the Irish Association of Teachers in Special Education. It publishes reviews of current books and software related to special needs education. If you are interested in reviewing such material, please contact the editor. REACH Journal is FREE to members of IATSE. REACH Journal is available in Ireland's Colleges /University Libraries.

How to write for REACH

Contributions are invited and should be typed in double spacing on A4 paper.

Articles should be approximately 2,500 words in length or 10/12 pages of type.

Text should also be emailed to reacheditor@iatse.ie, saved as a text file, naming programme used.

The Harvard style of referencing is used in this journal.

Authors referred to in the text are written as follows:

(Westwood, 2007) or ... according to Westwood (2007); if quoting directly (Westwood, 2007, p.55).

Full references are listed alphabetically at the end of the article

e.g. Westwood, P. (2007) Commonsense Methods for Children, with Special Educational Needs (5th ed), London:Routledge.

Articles submitted for publication are sent anonymously to a panel of editorial advisors for assessment.

Post hard copies to:

REACH Editor,

Irish Association of Teachers in Special Education,
Drumcondra Education Centre,
Drumcondra, Dublin 9.

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Delegates at the 20th IATSE Annual Conference