The community for schools in Europe

eTwinning Newsletter

Winter 2014

IMPORTANT:
The eTwinning newsletter is moving to an online format in 2015. Please sign up at **http://eepurl.com/62UL9,** where you can also opt to receive the Léargas Schools Education newsletter.

Welcome to the winter edition of the eTwinning Newsletter

It's been a busy time for eTwinning, with lots of exciting activites including our recent Digital Literacy Multilateral Workshop in Dublin in November. Teachers from Ireland, Latvia, Poland and Malta attended. A huge thank you to all our participants, and especially to presenters Tom Roche, Anne McMorrough, Glenda McKeown, Dr Conor Galvin and Simon Lewis for their hard work! We hope you enjoy the reports and updates in this edition, and please make sure to sign up online to continue receiving all the eTwinning news in the new year. The link is http://eepurl.com/62UL9. Thank you!

"Invigorating, thought provoking, connecting, innovative- a new era in my eTwinning!"

Professional Development Workshop report from Michael Tevenan

I was introduced to eTwinning in 2013 when I joined St. Brigid's Primary School in Kildare Town. I began a project where my 5th class students became pen pals with students from Chalette-sur-Loing, France. In September 2014 I continued my involvement through attending a Professional Development Workshop (PDW) in Tallin, Estonia, on "Integrating Computer Programming into the Primary Curriculum".

I had no prior knowledge of the Estonian curriculum but based on the information provided leading up to the PDW I made the assumption that IT/Coding was a specific subject in Estonian Primary Schools...I was wrong. Although children in pre-school/kindergarten are directly taught how to code, that is where it stops. In primary school, the teachers make a conscious effort to integrate IT/Coding into each lesson—the use of technology is a methodology in their curriculum, just as in ours.

I got direct experience of using new technology myself through mini-workshops at the PDW on 'Developing apps for Android phones' and 'Sploder' (a tool for making online games)—neither of which I had any experience of. To our surprise these workshops were delivered by teenagers (adult facilitators were there to assist), which really highlighted to me that adults do not need to be able to use the technology, merely facilitate its use. However it was very satisfying to present what we'd learned to all 122 delegates the next day, when I teamed up with ten others to adapt the popular phone app '4 Pics 1 Word' for educational use.

From the PDW I learned that you do not need to be able to use every kind of technology, nor should you fear being unable to answer a student's questions. Your students will support each other and they will educate you. There are of course challenges in integrating technology into our teaching, acquiring the necessary equipment/software and staying up-to-date. But through developing a support network such as eTwinning, we can collaboratively advance our teaching and use the technology available to assist our students in gaining a competitive advantage in the world jobs market.

eTwinning News: Single country projects welcome

Since the launch of eTwinning in 2005, only schools from different countries could co-operate on eTwinning Projects. However, eTwinning is now running a pilot scheme which for the first time allows schools from the same country to develop projects together. This new approach will enable even more students and teachers to collaborate through the eTwinning platform.

'Tis the season for eTwinning

As December draws in, why not start an eTwinning project on the theme of Christmas? Register at **www.etwinning.net** and see all the projects you can join on this seasonal theme. There are lots of exciting ideas to choose from!

léargas

Erasmus+

An comhphobal do scoileanna san Eoraip

Nuachtlitir eTwinning

Geimhreadh 2014

Fáilte chuig eagrán an gheimhridh den nuachtlitir eTwinning

Bhí am gnóthach ag eTwinning agus líon mór gníomhaíochtaí spreagúla ar siúl againn lenár áiríodh an Ceardlann Iltaobhach um Litearthacht Digiteach i mBaile Átha Cliath i mí na Samhna. Bhí múinteoirí as Éirinn, ón Laitvia, ón Pholainn agus ó Mhálta i láthair. Buíochas mór le gach rannpháirtí agus go háirithe na láithreoirí Tom Roche, Anne McMorrough, Glenda McKeown, an Dr Conor Galvin agus Simon Lewis as an obair chrua a rinne siad! Tá súil againn go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as na tuairiscí agus an t-eolas is deireanaí san eagrán seo. Bígí cinnte go liostálfaidh sibh ar líne chun an nuacht faoi eTwinning a fháil san athbhliain. Seo an nasc: http://eepurl.com/62UL9. Go raibh maith agaibh!

TÁBHACHTACH:
Bogfar an nuachtlitir eTwinning chuig formáid ar líne in 2015. Liostáil, le do thoil, ag http://eepurl.com/62UL9, áit a mbeidh de rogha agat leis, nuachtlitir Oideachas Scoileanna de chuid Léargas a fháil.

Nuacht eTwinning: Beidh fáilte roimh thionscadail ó thíortha aonair

Ó seoladh eTwinning in 2005 ba do scoileanna as tíortha difriúla a bhí ag comhoibriú amháin a bhí tionscadail eTwinning. Tá scéim phíolótach curtha ar siúl ag eTwinning anois áfach, a thugann deis do scoileanna ón tír céanna tionscadail a fhorbairt le chéile. Leis an gcur chuige nua seo cuirtear ar chumas níos mó daltaí agus múinteoirí comhoibriú ar an ardán eTwinning.

Tá séasúr eTwinning chugainn

Agus mí na Nollag ag druidim orainn, nach bhfuil fonn ort tabhairt faoi thionscadal eTwinning faoi ábhar na Nollag? Cláraigh ag www.etwinning.net agus féach ar na tionscadail go léir atá oscailte duit faoin téama séasúrach seo. Tá rogha mór smaointe spreagúla ar fáil!

"Ré nua spleodrach nuálach in eTwinning a nascann daoine agus a mhúsclaíonn smaointe!"

Ceardlann Forbartha Gairmiúla - Tuairisc le Michael Tevenan

Cuireadh in aithne do eTwinning mé in 2013, tráth a thosaigh mé ag obair i mBunscoil Naomh Bhríd (St. Brigit's) i mbaile Chill Dara. Chuireas tús le tionscadal ina ndearna daltaí rang a cúig i mo scoil cairde pinn le daltaí ó Chalette-sur-Loing sa Fhrainc. I mí Mheán Fómhair 2014 lean mé orm ag gabháil d' eTwinning. D'fhreastail mé ar Cheardlann Forbartha Gairmiúla i dTallin na hEastóine faoi "Ríomhchlárú Ríomhaire a chomhtháthú sa Churaclam Bunscoile".

Ní raibh aon réamheolas agam ar churaclam na hEastóine ach de réir na faisnéise a cuireadh ar fáil roimh an gCeardlann mheas mé gur ábhar ar leith é TF/Códú i mBunscoileanna san Eastóin....ní raibh an ceart agam. Cé go múintear códú go díreach do pháistí réamhscoile/naíonra ní dhéantar é a thuilleadh ina dhiaidh sin. Sa bhunscoil déanann na múinteoirí iarracht d'aon ghnó chun TF/Códú a chomhtháthú i ngach ceacht—is modheolaíocht ina gcuraclam—san í úsáid na teicneolaíochta leis, díreach mar atá againn sa bhaile.

Fuair mé taithí dhíreach ar úsáid a bhaint as teicneolaíocht nua i mioncheardlana ag an gCeardlann Forbartha Gairmiúla ar 'Aipeanna d'fhóin Android a fhorbairt' agus 'Sploder' (uirlis chun cluichí ar líne a dhéanamh). B'ábhar ionadh dúinn gur déagóirí a reáchtáil na ceardlanna (bhí daoine fásta i láthair chun cabhrú mar éascóirí), rud thug chun suntais dom nach gá do dhaoine fásta a bheith in ann an teicneolaíocht a úsáid ach amháin go mbeidh ar a gcumas a húsáid a éascú. B'ábhar sásaimh dúinn é áfach, na rudaí a bhí foghlamtha againn a chur i láthair don 122 toscaire an lá dá gcionn, nuair a chuireamar le chéile le deichniúr eile chun an aip fóin móréilimh '4 Pics 1 Word' a chur in oiriúint d'úsáid oideachais.

D'fhoghlaim mé on gCeardlann Forbartha Gairmiúla nach gá a bheith ar do chumas gach saghas teicneolaíochta a úsáid, agus ní gá eagla a bheith ort roimh cheisteanna na ndaltaí. Tacóidh na daltaí lena chéile agus cuirfidh siad oideachas ortsa. Cinnte, bíonn dúshláin ann maidir leis an teicneolaíocht a chomhtháthú inár gcuid teagaisc, maidir leis an trealamh/na bogearraí riachtanacha a fháil agus coinneáil bord ar bhord. Ach mar thoradh ar líonra tacaíochta cosúil le eTwinning a fhorbairt is féidir linn ár gcuid teagaisc a chur chun cinn i gcomhar lena chéile agus an teicneolaíocht atá ar fáil dúinn a úsáid chun cabhrú leis na daltaí buntáiste iomaíoch a bhaint amach i margadh post domhanda.