

iatse *Update*

Autumn Update

Autumn 2012

IATSE Annual Conference 2012



Fifty Years a-Growing: Members of staff, past and present of The Special Education Department, St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra receiving a gift from IATSE in recognition of 50 years service to special education in Ireland.

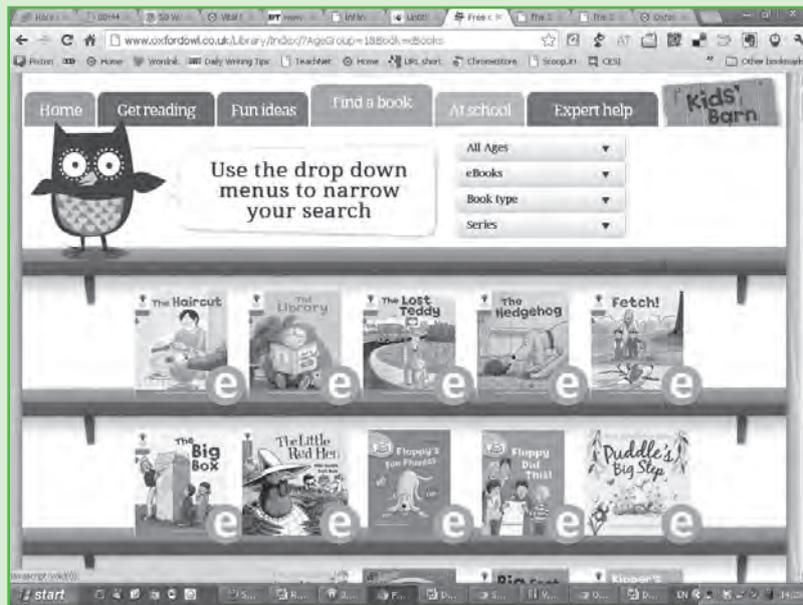
The 24th Annual Conference of the Irish Association of Teachers in Special Education was held in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra on the 7th, 8th and 9th June. We had a diverse, stimulating conference with a range of topics that enabled teachers and other professionals working in the field to learn, develop their skills and network with colleagues. The conference presentation explored why learners present with challenging behaviours and what interventions may be beneficial in addressing the needs of these children and young people. The conference was opened by Dr Joseph Travers, Director of the Special Education Department, St. Patrick's College. He made reference to the many current issues that impact on Special Education in Ireland.

The Keynote Address was delivered by Clare Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, National Educational Welfare Board who examined the theme of Exploring Behaviours That Challenge. The address proved to be very engaging. The speaker provided many examples from her own experience to allow those present to gain insight into behaviours that challenge. As ever, we had an international dimension to our conference and we would like to thank the delegates and presenters who joined us from abroad. On the Friday night of conference the CEC hosted a reception in the beautiful James Joyce Centre in North Great Georges Street. Delegates had the opportunity to socialise with a glass of wine while listening to Cascade, a superb choir!

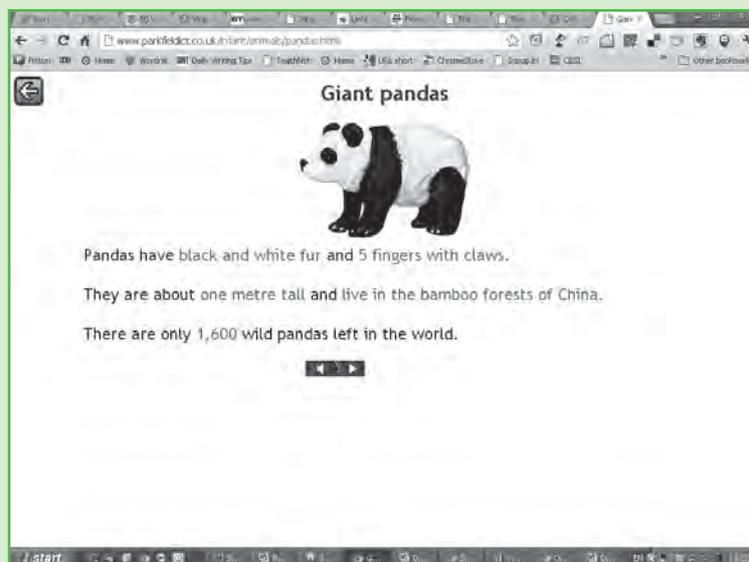
CyberCorner

At this time of year, we always look for new stimulating content to motivate our students. Here are a few ideas that might suit.

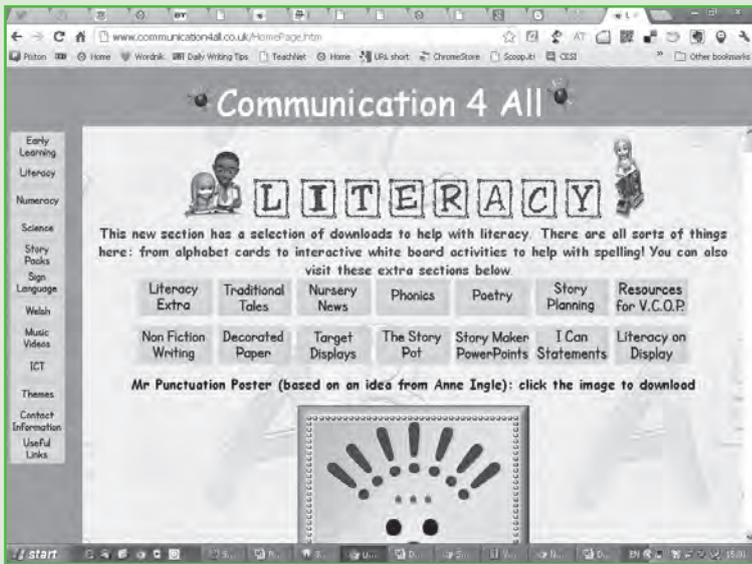
Oxford Owl is a free, award-winning (BETT 2012) website with a range of supports for Reading and Maths. It features over 250 free talking e-books, categorised by age and genre. The books have a zoom feature for pupils with visual impairment. In addition the site has sections on Phonics and a fantastic range of Storyteller videos where actors give dramatic effect to some traditional tales. The site also features some very good advice for parents on reading and maths. <http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>



Infant Encyclopaedia is a good resource for SEN children of any age who work best with short pieces of text and simple navigation. The site has over 20 curriculum topics (Minibeasts, Castles etc) and each topic has about 10-20 illustrated pages with short pieces of text in a large font, with key words and facts highlighted, together with a number of related interactive activities and videos. The option to hear the text read aloud is a fantastic addition, giving independence to struggling readers. www.parkfieldict.co.uk/infant/



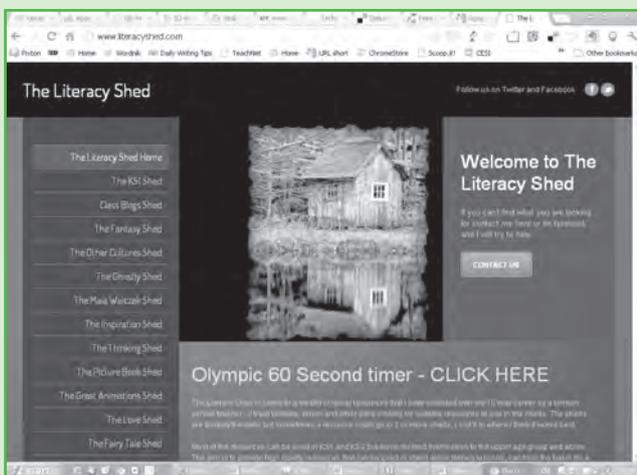
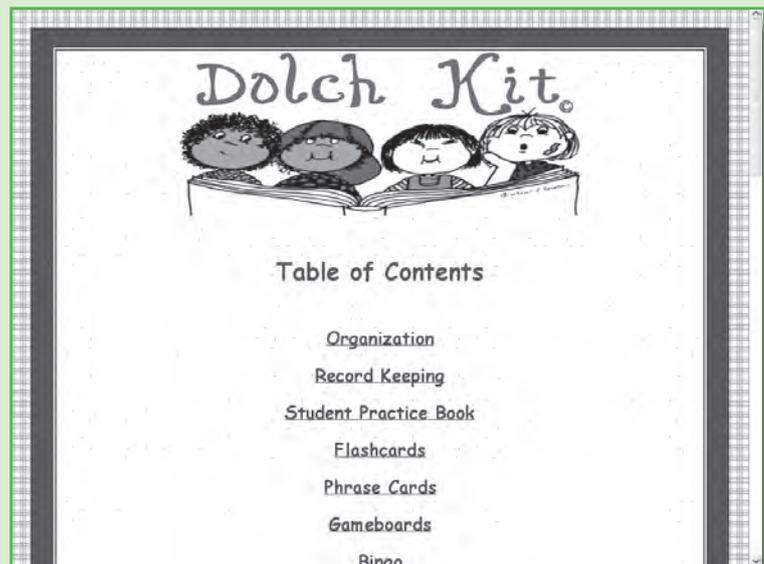
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Communication4All is a treasure trove of resources, with a strong emphasis on inclusion. There are lots of bright and engaging printables for literacy, numeracy and many topical themes. It includes some lovely themed resource sets for the Early Years, a selection of drag and drop charts for registration time, and an editable visual timetable which would make a great start to the day. In addition, there are also many PowerPoint templates including StoryMaker templates to inspire writing. The site is maintained by Bev Evans, a highly-respected educationalist. <http://www.communication4all.co.uk>

Although quite old, **The School Bell** website is still very popular and has lots of resources, including this page on the Dolch Word list. <http://theschoolbell.com>

Apps for Special Education is an extremely thorough guide to educational apps, reviewed under headings such as Curricular Area, Cost, Accessibility, Differentiation, Classroom use etc <http://goo.gl/N4CVH>



The Literacy Shed is a new website that has got rave reviews from teachers. It is huge site with hundreds of video resources to stimulate speaking, reading and writing. There are notes for teaching accompanying the resources and responses from teachers on their experiences in the classroom. www.literacyshed.com

If you'd like more recommendations, please our dedicated links page <http://goo.gl/mKJor>

Honorary Member



Dr Pauric Travers, President, St Patrick's College with Dr Pat Lynch.

In recognition of the special relationship that IATSE has with St. Patrick's College, we were delighted to confer honorary membership on Dr Travers.

Dr Pauric Travers is an educationalist and Historian. He is a graduate of UCD where he completed his studies to Masters level. He proceeded to further studies in The Australian National University where he completed his PhD.

He was a member of staff in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra since 1981, becoming the college's first lay president in 1999. He is a founding director of The Centre for Cross Border Studies.

He, as president, led St. Patrick's College with distinction through a number of significant transitions in the delivery of third level education.

Pauric was an active supporter of IATSE and special education in his role as president. This unstinting support was formally recognised when he was awarded with honorary membership of IATSE.

Date For Your Diary: IATSE AGM 2012

The Annual General Meeting of the Irish Association of Teachers in Special Education will take place in The Teachers' Club, Parnell Square on Saturday, 17th November 2012, 10.30am - 12.30pm.

IATSE Annual Award 2012/2013

IATSE has in recent years, established an annual award to give recognition to good practice in Irish schools in the area of Special Education. All practising teachers involved in Special Education are eligible to apply. This also includes teachers of mainstream classes where pupils with Special Needs are included.

Submissions may describe:

- A piece of work carried out with a particular pupil/group/class
- A programme of staff development established e.g. school based induction programme for new staff i.e. Teachers, SNAs
- A curricular programme or innovation

A submission may be in the form of a case study/project which would describe the practical application, methodologies and outcomes of the innovation. It may

also take the form of a narrative through which the story is told. It should be between 1,000 and 3,000 words in length. Submissions may be made by an individual or group of teachers. Up to four prizes of €500 each will be awarded each year. Only one award will be made for each winning submission.

Adjudication

Winning submissions will be selected by a panel of adjudicators, comprising members of the IATSE CEC, representatives and members selected from a panel of readers. The CEC of IATSE will be the final arbiter in relation to the award.

Applications should be made to Annual Award, IATSE, Drumcondra Education Centre, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. Closing date for submissions is March 31st 2013.