

iatse *Update*

SPRING UPDATE

SPRING 10

REGIONAL CONFERENCES Spring 2010

Sat 27th Athlone.

Hodson Bay Hotel

9.30-1 pm

Speakers Fiona Mc Nicholas
and Sandra Patton

***Dr. Fiona Mc Nicholas will talk about The A-Z of Childhood Disorders
Sandra Patton will make a presentation on Handwriting***

Sat 13th March Enniscorthy

River Park Hotel

9.30-1 pm

Speakers Dr. Aileen Murtagh
and Sandra Patton

***Dr. Fiona Mc Nicholas will talk about The A-Z of Childhood Disorders
Sandra Patton will make a presentation on Handwriting***

There is no cost to IATSE members

The cost is 5 euro if you a non member but you join on the day there is no cost

IATSE ANNUAL AWARDS 2009

Entrant: Colman Motherway

Project Title: A Report for Special School Students, their Parents and Staff based on the theme- Enabling, Hearing and Giving Weight to Students' Views of Special Schooling in the 21st Century

Summary: Colman ascertained the views of the students in the special school in which he teaches. The focus was on their perceptions of their own educational experiences. This project formed part of the author's Ed. D programme at St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra. The author accessed the views of the students through a variety of participatory methods including focus groups, interviews and through written and drawn submissions. It is a good example of enabling students to have a voice and to have that voice heard by the whole school community. The resulting booklet is attractive and no doubt relevant to the interests of the intended audience, illustrated by the students' own drawings. It also provides important insights into the concerns, wishes and views of this cohort of students who rarely are afforded such opportunities and it is a reminder that students themselves are the 'experts' on their personal experiences of school. IATSE hope to put Colemans research on our wesite soon.



Anna Lombard IATSE President presenting an award to Colman Motherway at the IATSE AGM



Mary Cunningham receiving her award from Anna Lombard IATSE President



Colman Motherway and Mary Cunningham award winners 2009 enjoying a post AGM chat

Entrant: Mary Cunningham

Project Title: Social Outreach Programme at St Joseph's Special School, Galway

Summary: Summary: The above project was developed to enable and explore the social interactions between the students from the special school and a group of transition year students during a once weekly art activity. The ultimate aim of the project was to facilitate meaningful interactions between the students through the co-operative learning and peer instruction that takes place as they engage in the joint activities. Again, the research methods echo those employed by Colman, with the author observing, interviewing the students and through student questionnaire. The findings as they relate to attitudes and relationships as they were experienced by the students are discussed. The project concluded that the experience was a positive experience for all concerned and the author acknowledges Male's assertion that "friendships can neither be created or manufactured but opportunities to forge them can". Again, the adjudicating committee were delighted to have another example of good practice which enables the voices of the students with whom we work to be heard.

The International Conference

15 Years after Salamanca: Inclusion - A School for All

The International Conference : 15 Years after Salamanca: Inclusion - A School for All : was held in Malahide last November. It was organised by European Association of Service Providers for people with Disabilities (EASPD) Brussels with support from the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies in Ireland, the European Commission, and other important stakeholders.

The Salamanca Statement was developed in 1994 and was a manifesto for inclusion as a way of achieving high quality education for all. The aim was to move the educational policy and practice in a more inclusive direction and to develop a society where equal opportunities for all are guaranteed. The Conference aimed to create a new European Network of all those committed to inclusive education, to support the development mainstream schools into schools for all and to agree on a Dublin Statement and Action Plan.

There was a large attendance with speakers and delegates from Ireland and many European countries. Representatives from Departments of Education and Health, Voluntary Bodies, Service Providers, Schools, Parents and Parent organisations were all in attendance. The speakers from Ireland included Batt O'Keeffe, Minister for Education and Science, Peter Baldwin, DES, Pat Curtin, NCSE, Sean Carey, Michael Shevlin and Helen Guinan. There was a very interesting presentation from Katherine O'Leary talking about two of her children who have special needs. One went to mainstream schools and the other attended special school and Katherine is confident that this was the right option for each given their individual needs.

Plenary sessions focussed on international perspectives on inclusion. Workshops topics included Inclusion in Pre-School, Special Schools as Resource Centres, Technologies for Individual Needs, Multidisciplinary Working, Developing Teacher Competencies in Inclusive Settings.

The document produced after the Conference debate confirmed that people with a disability have the right to high quality and appropriate education, the right to choose and receive education in an inclusive environment and the right to specific resources and services to meet their needs.

Inclusive education is defined as a lifelong process providing a continuum of options with special schools as a source of expertise. The "Inclusion for All" approach where every pupil is valued will promote an inclusive society but requires a shared vision and strong leadership.

The recommendations call on authorities across Europe to promote positive attitudes towards inclusion as well as developing a legal framework for inclusion. Other issues to promote inclusion include team-based approach, in-service and initial training for teachers as well as facilitation of transfers from one school sector to the next.

UCD Confering - IATSI Awards



Anna Lombard IATSE President presents Aoibheann Kelly and Miriam Colleran with their joint award.

NABMSE Conference Friday 20th November

The keynote address was given by Sue Corbett "What does Dignity really mean?" Sue's area of specialisation is the fostering of positive work environments and employee well being. She has been involved in assisting organisations to prevent and manage workplace bullying and harassment.

Eileen Flynn the general Secretary of CPSMA gave a presentation on "Codes of behaviour"

Jacinta Kitt gave a presentation on "The Psychological School Environment" Workplace Bullying Awareness and Prevention. Jacinta is a lecturer/researcher and an organisational advisor on creating and maintaining a positive/effective work environment and on awareness and prevention of workplace bullying.

IATSE AGM 2009

The IATSE Annual General Meeting was held recently In The Teachers Club, Parnell Square. The event was really well attended. After the formal business of the AGM was completed Dr. Aileen Murtagh gave a short presentation on The A-Z of Childhood Disorders. Dr. Murtagh's presentation was very well received – time as ever was our enemy. The presentation provoked many question from the audience. Dr. Murtagh will have the opportunity to give a more in depth presentation at an IATSE regional conference in Enniscorthy in March.(as detailed in the front cover of this edition)



Dr. Aileen Murtagh gave an excellent presentation on A-Z of Childhood Disorders



Dermot McCullen, Treasurer Anna Lombard, President and Deirdre Corcoran, Secretary getting ready for action before the start of AGM 2009 in The Teachers Club