



e-Newsletter 42

Our newsletter provides a quick update with what's happening so take a few minutes to check out what's happening in STEM all over the country.

Programme Updates

SFI Discover Science and Maths Award

Once again, it's time to start preparing for the SFI Discover Science and Maths Award. Last year we presented 549 schools with an Award and we hope to present even more this year. Registration for your intention to apply for the Awards is now open. Visit www.primaryscience.ie/awards_16 to register your school today! Also, check out our new [awards toolkit](#) which provides a step-by-step guide on compiling your Log of Evidence.

Looking for inspiration for the awards? [Read the profiles](#) of some of the inspirational schools who have achieved nine SFI Discover Science and Maths Award and are working towards their tenth!



ESERO Ireland



Be a 'Cassini Scientist for a Day' – 2015 Competition

We are delighted to announce that Ireland is participating in the 'Cassini Scientist for a Day' competition which is open to students aged 10 and upwards. The competition is designed to give the participants a taste of life as a space scientist. Students are invited to submit a 500-word essay explaining their choice of one of three targets to be imaged by the Cassini spacecraft in orbit around Saturn. Click [here](#) for more details on how to apply.



Join the Odysseus Space Science Challenge!

Are you interested in space exploration? Are you aged between 7 and 22? Then you are just the person to enjoy taking part in an exciting competition known as Odysseus! Visit [The Odysseus Space Science Challenge](#) for more details on how to get involved.

When Astronauts go Potty!

Ever wonder what happens when you need to go to the toilet in space? To help us celebrate Science Week's 20th Birthday, Sminky Shorts created this video to talk us through the whole process from start to finish.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Og7H04aul84>



National STEM Weeks

Science Week November 8th – 15th

Science Week took place from November 8th – 15th and celebrated its 20th birthday. It has grown from the very first Science Week in 1996 with just 50 events, to what is today, a nationwide event comprising of over 800 events with more than 250,000 participants.

Primary schools across the country got involved in Science Week by hosting their own Science Week birthday parties and running Science Week events. Longford registered the highest participation with over one third of primary schools registering a Science Week Birthday Celebration activity on www.science.ie. From science quizzes, to science shows and workshops primary schools around the country got behind Science Week 2015 and joined in the celebrations, check out some of the photos from Science Week 2015 here: www.science.ie/photos-and-videos/photo-gallery

Engineers Week February 28th – March 5th

Engineers Week is a week-long programme of nationwide events with the aim of celebrating the world of engineering in Ireland. The week aims to create a positive awareness and spark enthusiasm about the engineering profession to people of all ages,

especially students and their teachers and parents. Visit <http://www.engineersweek.ie/> to get your school involved.



Discover Centres

Discover Primary Science & Maths has a network of over 50 Science Centres with approved workshops and/or outreach resources. Check out what's happening in your area:

SFI Discover Centre Video - Clara Bog

Check out [our latest SFI Discover Centre video](#) where Scoil Bhride, Clara, visit Clara Bog, Co Offaly. Watch as the children learn about the origins of the bog and some of its fascinating facts in the visitor centre. They then explore the bog and connect with their natural surroundings using their observational and listening skills so that the bog becomes the outdoor classroom where the day's learning is reinforced in a scenic, fun and naturally interactive environment.

GAP

Global Action Plan (GAP) Ireland last year launched a new programme, aimed at school children of 8 to 14 years. It is a fun online programme taking action on water conservation. Schools are supported by GAP through the website, workshops, celebration events and an award ceremony. Click [here](#) to find out more details on how to get involved.

Imaginosity

This Christmas, grab a white coat and join '**Santa's Science Lab**' at Imaginosity. The Imaginosity Elves will be in full swing up until Christmas as they experiment and conjure up festive workshops in the lab. Check out the range of workshops they have on offer [here](#).

Inch Wildfowl Reserve - Exciting new Outdoor Learning Site in Donegal

Inch Wildfowl Reserve, in Burt, County Donegal has begun delivering Nature Education Days to schools, in partnership with Glenveagh National Park Education Centre. The site offers schools a fascinating place to visit to learn about conservation, biodiversity and sustainability. More details are available [here](#).

The Rediscovery Centre

The Rediscovery Centre offers a wide range of primary school workshops for Junior Infants to 6th class. All workshops are linked to the primary curriculum and are based on hands-on enquiry and experiential learning across a range of different topics. Click [here](#) for more details.



Partner organisations

RDS

The first RDS STEM Learning National Conference took place on Saturday, November 14 and was booked out with over 100 primary school teachers in attendance. Focusing on creativity in science education, there was a fantastic atmosphere among participants as they shared experiences and explored new ways to approach the primary science curriculum. The RDS and SFI look forward to building on the success of this inaugural conference for next year! www.rds.ie/stemlearning



ISTA Annual Conference 2016

If you missed the RDS STEM Learning National Conference, the ISTA Annual Conference 2016 is happening on Saturday 9th April in Limerick Institute of Technology. The conference aims to provide teachers with a quality day of learning and professional development. There will be lots going on that will be of interest to all Primary School teachers. Check out the programme [here](#) to find out more about the exciting hands on workshops and informative talks scheduled throughout the day. Secure your place now by registering at <http://www.istaconference.com/register>.

EU Energy Workshop on ESD

The Science Education Unit, in the Institute of Education DCU, are pleased to announce a two and a half day Energy Workshop, that is taking place from the 8th – 10th of December 2015, on the St Patrick's Campus, Drumcondra. This two and a half day workshop is one of three European workshops that are running as part of the European SUSTAIN project. Secure your place by booking online at www.spd.dcu.ie/site/news/SUSTAINConference