



e-Newsletter 43

Our newsletter provides a quick update on the latest developments and events in STEM from around the country.

Programme Updates

SFI Discover Science and Maths Award

Each year we are amazed by the incredible science, technology, engineering and maths work happening in schools like yours. Don't miss your chance to gain the recognition your school deserves, [register your school now](#) for an SFI Discover Science and Maths Award. Closing date to register your school's intent is March 16th.

Deadline for submitting your Log of Evidence and application form is April 25th. Make sure to check out our [new awards toolkit](#) which provides tips and guidance 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!

New: Classroom Activity

Monitoring a Volcano with Satellite

Our new teacher created activity, '[Monitoring a Volcano with Satellite](#)' is now live on our website. Tailored towards senior level classes with cross curricular links, this fun innovative activity will contribute towards criteria for the awards, and develop a range of different skills for the students.

ESERO Ireland



Be a 'Cassini Scientist for a Day' – Competition

Trinity College Dublin is proud to host the 2015 edition of the 'Cassini Scientist for a Day' competition in Ireland.

The competition is designed to give the participants a taste of life as a space scientist and is open to primary and secondary school students in Ireland between the ages of 10 - 18.

Ireland has a growing reputation in the space science sector and Trinity contributes to this field through the world-leading research being done by its Astrophysics Research Group. There are currently over 45 Irish companies working with the European Space Agency in the development of highly innovative technologies for the global market in space systems and space related services and applications.

The '[Cassini Scientist for a Day](#)' competition will give the next generation of space scientists an opportunity to have their voice heard.



Tell-tale signs of a shooting star

'[Tell-tale signs of a shooting star](#)' is a new teachers' guide for children aged 10 to 12 that includes pupil activities and a teacher's demonstration. Children can explore what happens when a piece of space rock collides with the Earth's atmosphere. Using an inquiry-based approach, pupils perform experiments using household materials to discover what happens if a space rock survives its journey all the way to the ground.

The Moon, Craters and Meteorites

Developed in association with ESERO Ireland, [check out this fun classroom activity](#) available on our website which is suitable for all ages.

ESA's Summer workshop for teachers: save the date!

ESA is organising its 7th [Teachers' Summer Workshop](#) at ESTEC, the Netherlands, from 6 to 8 July 2016. The workshop is open to both primary and secondary school teachers. Save the date in your diary, as registration will open in the upcoming weeks.



National STEM Weeks

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. Engineers Week will run from 28th February to 5th March 2016, with the theme 'Engineering Our Future' – aimed at igniting the imaginations of the next generation of engineers.

Getting involved is easy. [Visit the website](#) to register for a free school visit or to get activity ideas and be in with a chance to win a prize for your school.

New: Framework

Download our new [Engineering our Environment Resource Kit](#) which brings together DPSM classroom activities such as Design a Bridge, Design and Make traffic lights and Amazing triangles in an Engineering themed framework for inquiry.

I'm an Engineer, Get me out of here!

'I'm an Engineer' is a free online activity where engineers talk to school students from all over Ireland at www.imanengineer.ie.

It's an X Factor-style competition between engineers, where the students are the judges. Thanks to funding from SFI Discover, the [Space Zone](#) is running between 29th February–11th March, alongside Engineers Week. Students challenge the engineers over fast-paced online live chats. They ASK the engineers anything they want, and VOTE for their favourite engineer to win a prize of €500 to communicate their work with the public.

Read more on how it works at www.imanengineer.ie/teachers/



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 – Ballybay Wetlands Centre, Co. Monaghan

Check out our latest SFI Discover Centre video where Scoil Rois, Carrickmacross visit [Ballybay Wetlands Centre](#) in Co. Monaghan. Watch as the children do a range of hands on activities including science experiments and pond dipping.

Airfield

[Airfield Estate](#) is coming back to life this January, from new arrivals to spring planting. Airfield are currently offering free walking tours and 20% off all DPSM programmes.

Global Action Plan

Water Explorer – is now LIVE! Water Explorer, is a fun, inspiring and educational online initiative to engage schools in 11 countries in understanding how water affects lives, and in taking practical action to protect and save water in school communities. [Get your school involved](#) now to be in the chance of winning some great prizes!

Galway Atlantaquaria

Immerse your students in engineering this February at [Galway Atlantaquaria](#). Let their trained staff guide your class through their Engineering Trail, which highlights the everyday applications of structural, mechanical and bio-medical engineering to name a few. The workshop also includes a design and make activity to explore coastal flood defences.

The Rediscovery Centre

[The Rediscovery Centre](#) are gearing up to celebrate national Engineers Week 2016. They will be delivering exciting Engineering workshop at libraries in Dublin and Kildare.

Lismore Heritage Centre

This Winter, [Lismore Heritage Centre](#) has been holding many Science and Space based programmes for local children. In January they plan to run a Science Camp and After School Science programme which include DPSM materials and resources.

CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory

During Engineers Week 2016, [Blackrock Castle Observatory](#) is hosting interactive workshops in Cork for primary schools. For this year's theme of "Engineering Our Future", their workshops will explore hands-on engineering concepts linked to space technology.

Imaginosity

[Imaginosity](#), joined by an expert judging panel of Ireland's literary minds launches its annual search for Ireland's best young story makers. The annual competition, 'What's the Story – A Big Competition for Little Story Makers' now entering its 4th year, is looking for

creative young storywriters between the age of 3 and 9 years, to create their very own original story using their inspired young imaginations.

Atlantic AirVenture

Check out one of our newest Discover Centres, [Atlantic AirVenture Aviation Centre](#) in Shannon, where children discover the science behind flight in a range of workshops.



Partner organisations

RDS

The 2016 [RDS Primary Science Fair](#) spanned two cities and two weekends with 4,500 primary school children exhibiting their STEM project in either Dublin or Limerick.

The inaugural RDS Primary Science Fair Limerick saw a massive increase in participating schools from Munster and attracted a capacity attendance over the two days. Science Foundation Ireland are one of the sponsors of the RDS Primary Science Fair Limerick and were delighted to see it being such a success with schools and families alike.



ReeLIFE SCIENCE!

ReeLIFE SCIENCE! is a novel science video competition for Irish primary and secondary schools, which aims to promote Science in the classroom, by inviting students to produce a short video communicating a scientific topic in an engaging and entertaining way. This year, Scoil Aonghusa Senior Primary School, Tallaght Dublin 24, were crowned winners for their creative video entitled '[Scoil Aonghusa Rocket Launch](#)'

For more information on The ReeLIFE SCIENCE! Competition visit www.reellifescience.com/

Register for the National Scratch Competition 2016!

Scratch is a visual programming language that makes it easy for young people to create their own interactive stories, animations, games, music, and art – and share their creations on the web. Using Scratch allows students to develop creative and critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills as they work collaboratively or individually on Scratch projects. Entry is open to individual students and groups of all ages.

Register your details now on scratch.ics.ie

ISAT Science Day

Are you choosing Science as a subject for School Self Evaluation this year? Would you like to develop the teaching of science in your school? [Science Day for Primary Teachers](#), happening on Saturday 9th April 2016 in Limerick Institute of Technology will help build on your own knowledge and confidence in the teaching of science, gain ideas to inspire children and colleagues to enjoy science and become more aware of resources and programmes available to support you in the teaching of Primary Science.

For further information visit: www.istaconference.com



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