



e-Newsletter 48

Welcome back to the first Discover Primary Science and Maths e-newsletter of 2017! We hope that everyone had a great Christmas break and are ready for an exciting year full of primary science!

Take this as an opportunity to get updated and find out what is new with primary science!

DPSM Programme Updates

Teachers' Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Whole School CPD

We were pleased to see that schools have wasted no time getting back to 'science' with whole school CPD workshop 2 taking place in many schools since the beginning of January. We are working with approx. 120 schools in the current academic year.

More information on whole school CPD is available on our [website](#). Registration for 2017/18 will open again in early September 2017. More details will be sent to principals and will be found on the website at that time.

CPD Workshops to support Engineers Week resource



With our partners in Blackrock Castle Observatory we have developed a new classroom Resource called "[The Power of Water](#)". To help you use this classroom resource we will run a number of workshops which will show participants how to use inquiry based learning techniques to promote children's learning and understanding of Science Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). Participants will explore the Power of Water using resources developed from DPSM and ESERO Ireland resources.

Workshops will be run in:

- Drumcondra Education Centre (16th February 2017)
- CIT Blackrock Observatory (28th February 2017)
- Kilkenny Education Centre (2nd March 2017)
- Galway Education Centre (6th March 2017)

For more information and how to book [visit the ESERO website](#).

Science Foundation Ireland Discover Science and Maths Award

We are very excited to see so many schools registering for the Science Foundation Ireland Discover Science and Maths Awards this year. It is a great chance for your school to get the recognition they deserve for all their STEM work.

If you still haven't registered your school's intention to apply for the awards do not worry you still have time to get involved and receive an award! [Registration](#) is open until March 16th 2017. All the information you need to achieve an award can be [found on our website](#). There are also [toolkits](#) on the website with information on how to follow each step of the award.

If you are undecided as to whether to do the awards take a look at some of the [school profiles](#) that have earned 9 or more of the Science Foundation Ireland Discover Science and Maths Awards and are working towards their tenth to get a little inspiration!

Please note: For the sake of the planet and for other reasons the number of schools submitting digital Logs of Evidence is increasing every year. Last year over half of participating schools presented digital evidence. We will be promoting the move towards submission of digital Logs of Evidence in the coming years with an eventual phasing of out hard copy Logs of Evidence by 2019.

Insiders



Science Foundation Ireland funded a new 10-part TV series in association with RTE for Young People that explores the wow science behind the cool events and venues that kids love. They're Insiders because they are scientists.

Go to The Insiders' RTE player website for full information on each show and teachers tips: <http://trte.rte.ie/insiders/blog/>.

The Show explores the science behind many themes including sport, theme parks, the circus and space! They are perfect to introduce a science topic or for that wet lunchtime when the students cannot get outside!

ESERO Ireland



An Inspiring Call

On 24 January, teachers and students from Ireland, Romania and Portugal were connected by video to ESA astronaut Thomas Pesquet on the International Space Station.

The Irish event took place at the Millenium Theatre in Limerick Institute of Technology. 300 5th class students from schools in Limerick, Tipperary and Kildare and their teachers had the opportunity to speak directly with ESA French astronaut Thomas Pesquet who is currently on the International Space Station.

You can [watch a replay of the event](#) on the ESA website.

SkyMatters

Blackrock Castle Observatory have introduced a SkyMatters page to their website. It is a monthly guide to the night sky in association with the [Irish Examiner](#) which tells you what dates to keep an 'eye on the sky'! Check out the [SkyMatters](#) page to see what will be happening in the Night Sky this month.

'Cassini Scientist for a Day' competition

The 2016/17 edition of the 'Cassini Scientist for a Day' competition is now open to entries. The competition is designed to give 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 imaged by the Cassini spacecraft, in orbit around Saturn, over the past few years. [Find out more details and how to enter.](#)

EUMETSAT Competition

EUMETSAT is launching a Minecraft satellite-building competition for 6-16 year olds. The goal is for Minecrafters to build a model of the Sentinel-3 or Jason-3 ocean-monitoring satellites, or to get creative and design their own satellite and/or ocean monitoring system with buoys, automatic robots etc.

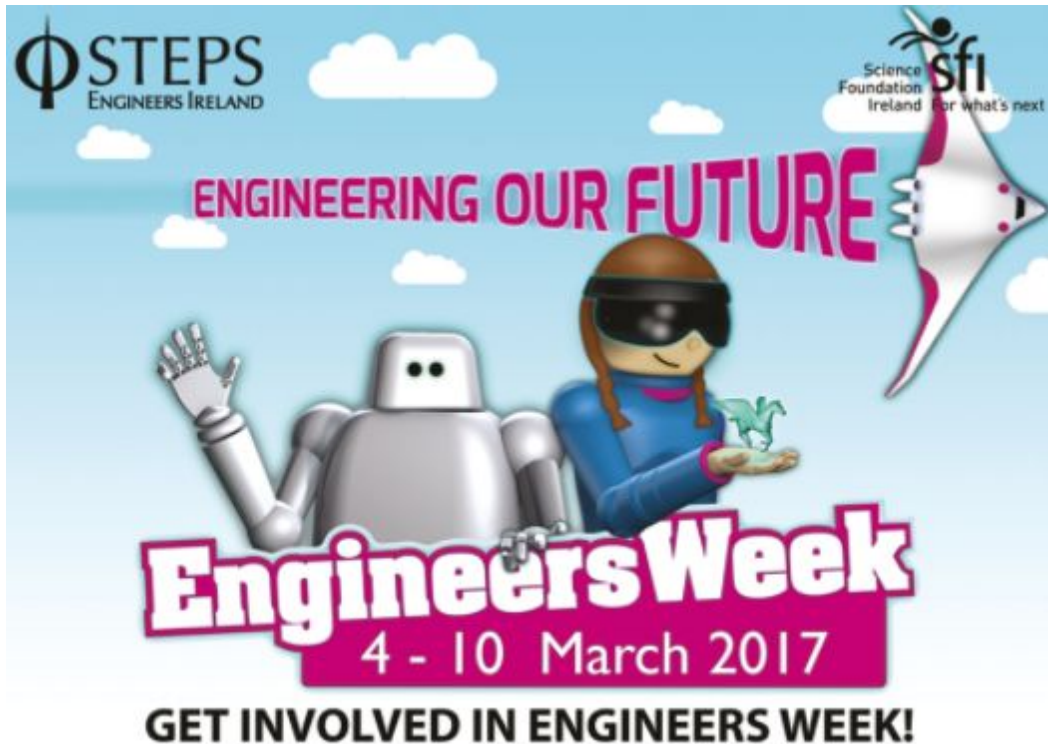
More information about the competition is available on [EUMETSAT's Youth Education website](#).

EUMETSAT operates Europe's weather satellites, including Jason-2, -3 and Sentinel-3A.

Find out more at: <http://www.eumetsat.int/>

National STEM Weeks

Engineers Week



Engineers Week is running from the 4th- 10th of March this year. Engineers Week offers a chance for primary-level students and their teachers to be inspired by engineering, participate in exciting engineering challenges, and win prizes.

For more information on how to get involved go to www.engineersweek.ie

For information on the DPSM/ESERO Engineers Week Classroom Resource “The Power of Water” and workshops to support, [visit the Engineers Week page](#) on the website.



Science Foundation Ireland Discover Centres



Updates on exciting upcoming STEM events are available from the SFI Discover Centres listed below.

Select a link to find out more:

[CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory](#)

[Creative Ardagh](#)

[Brigit's Garden](#)

[Croker's Bee Farm](#)

[Global Action Plan](#)

[Killarney National Park Education Centre](#)

[Galway Atlantaquaria](#)

[Imaginosity](#)

[Dublin Zoo](#)



Check out our latest Discover Centre video, where we pay a visit to the [WeCreate Workspace](#) in Cloughjordan.

Partner organisations

SEAI

One Good Idea

The [Top 20 Primary Schools](#) who are through to the next stage of SEAI's One Good Idea competition have been announced. They will all receive a workshop which will guide them on activating and running their campaigns.

RDS Primary Science Fair



Well done to the 120 schools who displayed their class projects at the [2017 RDS Primary Science Fair](#) Limerick. The three-day non-competitive exhibition was a hive of energy and enthusiasm with over 3000 students participating in the Fair. Schools who are interested in becoming involved in the Belfast Fair, June 8-9, can log onto a live information webinar at 3.30pm on Wednesday, February 1 to find out more.

Scratch.ICS.IE

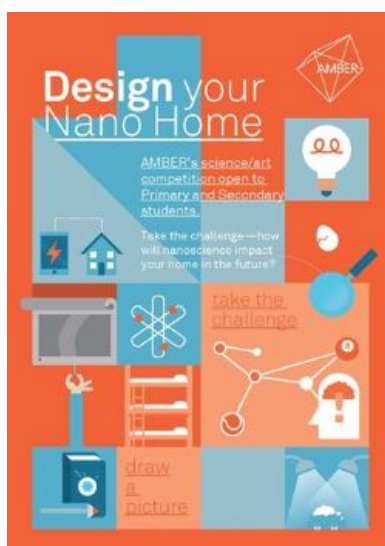


Scratch is a visual programming language that makes it easy for young people to create their own interactive stories, animations, games, music and art and share their creations on the web. Find out more [visit the Scratch website](#).

The National Scratch Competition has been since October. The Closing date for entries will be Friday 17th February 2017. View results of our [2016 competition](#). You may contact us at this email: scratch@ics.ie

NanoWOW

Design your Nano Home - Competition



How do you think nanoscience will impact your house and how you live in the future?

To enter the competition students must draw a picture of a room in a house inspired by nanoscience. The top two winning entries (one primary, one secondary) will be brought to life by a professional illustrator and displayed at the Irish Science Teachers' Association Annual Conference in April 2016.

The closing date for entries is Friday 26th of February. [Find out more information about the competition](#) on our website.