



## e-Newsletter 49

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

### DPSM Programme Updates

Teachers' Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Whole School CPD

Many schools have now completed Workshop 2 and are swiftly moving onto Workshop 3.

The feedback we have received so far has been very positive with many teachers feeling more confident and enjoying teaching science!

If your school is interested in taking part in our free whole school CPD workshops next year, more information can be found on the DPSM [website](#). Registration for 2017/18 will open again in early September 2017. More details will be sent to principals and can be found on the website at that time.

Science Foundation Ireland Discover Science and Maths Award

[Online application](#) for registering your school's intention to apply for a Science Foundation Ireland Discover Science and Maths Award has been extended to Friday 7th April.

Thank you to all the schools that have registered so far! We were delighted to see so many schools registering for the awards, and preparation is already underway to start the review process of the logs!

Immediately after the Easter Holidays you will receive an application form which must accompany your log of evidence. If you do not receive this email, please contact the DPSM office.

**Remember the closing date for receipt of Logs of Evidence accompanied by the application form is 5pm on Monday 8th May 2017!**

Check out [http://www.primaryscience.ie/awards\\_steps.php](http://www.primaryscience.ie/awards_steps.php) to make sure your school has met all the necessary criteria before submitting. We are all looking forward to reviewing each school's Log of Evidence.

Believe in Science



Science Foundation Ireland recently launched the #BelieveInScience campaign to promote the potential that science and discovery offer Ireland, today and in tomorrow's world.

The #BelieveInScience campaign will see Science Foundation Ireland work in partnership with the Irish research community to share a mutual passion for science with the public; to promote an understanding of the ability of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) to create positive change in the world and to drive a sustainable economy in Ireland.

Check out our video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZBwFD0qhk0>

## Science Day for Primary Teachers



DPSM and SEAI are sponsoring the 2017 annual conference of the Irish Science Teachers Association (ISTA) There will be a full day of talks and hands on sessions for primary teachers on Saturday 8th April 2017 at Maynooth University, including an ESERO Ireland/ Discovery Primary Science & Maths Workshop, *A Space Picnic: Food and Taste in Space*. For those who wish to develop the teaching of science in their school or choose science as a topic for School Self Evaluation.

Sessions on Investigations, Forces, Electricity, Trees, Space and more. For more information visit <http://www.istaconference.com/programme-cjg9>

## Environmental Education Ireland: Festival of Outdoor Learning



Hosted by Environmental Education Ireland the “Festival of Outdoor Learning” is being held on April 22nd and 23rd, in Cappanalea Outdoor Education Centre, Kilorglin in the stunning Kerry Mountains.

This is your chance to learn new skills and meet like-minded people. The festival will bring together educators, teachers and outdoor professionals from a range of areas and disciplines in order to learn from each other.

For more information, please visit the website: [www.eeireland.wix.com/festival](http://www.eeireland.wix.com/festival)

## National Tree Week



*Above: Lily Coffey who dug deep to plant the first of over 100 Crab Apple trees that Applegreen have donated in support of National Tree Week 2017*

It appears that Irish children have their feet firmly on the ground...but that's not a good thing!

They should be out climbing trees and having forest adventures. Unfortunately, according to recent research tens of thousands of children aged 7 to 11 (40% in fact) have never scampered up a tree. And thousands more have never even been in a forest!

Tree experts are setting out to open the country's forests to the x-box generation. They want them to walk the forests, learn more about trees, plant them and make trees a real part of their lives.

During National Tree week, which ran from Sunday March 5th - March 12th there were free trees to plant at 100 locations around the country. It was the most extensive national promotion of forests and trees ever undertaken in the country and has been brought together by forecourt chain Applegreen, who are sponsors of National Tree Week 2017 and the Tree Council of Ireland and supported by forestry experts Coillte who are responsible for tens of thousands of acres of forests across the country.

Applegreen donated 100 crab apple trees which were planted at 100 locations across the country and local communities were encouraged to pack away the computers and TVs and get out to explore the trees, parks and forests in their areas.

If you missed Tree Week this year be sure to get involved next year!

Full details of National Tree Week can be found at:

<http://treecouncil.ie/initiatives/applegreen-tree-week/programme-events/>

## DPSM Summer Courses

**Discover Primary Science & Maths and The European Space Education Office (ESERO) Ireland**, are offering places for teachers on two 5-day professional development courses in the week of July 3 – 7, 2017.

**Course 1: Using Space to teach science through Inquiry.** This course is suitable for teachers of 3rd to 6th class and is being offered at CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory. Bookings can be made through the Cork Education Centre from mid-April.

**Course 2: Junior Rocket Scientists: Space Science as a Cross-Curricular Theme** will run at Lough Gur Visitor Centre from July 3-7, 2017. This course is suitable for teachers of Infants to 2nd class, bookings through the Limerick Education Centre will open soon. For queries on the content and methodology of the courses, please contact Frances McCarthy, Education & Outreach @ CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory on 021 432 6121

Both courses have the objective to assist participants to develop a cross-curricular approach to teaching Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) using Space as a theme. The courses have an emphasis on inquiry based learning and provide opportunities to apply skills and knowledge to real life situations. The main curriculum areas covered by the courses are SESE (Science, Geography) and Mathematics.

**Discover Primary Science & Maths have teamed up with SEAI** to offer primary school teachers a choice of three summer schools from 3rd to 7th July 2017. Attending the 5 day course give teachers an entitlement of extra personal vacation (EPV) days.

The venues for the courses are the new Rediscovery Centre, Ballymun, Dublin, Airfield House, Dundrum, Dublin and Birr, Co Offaly. The objective of the course is help teachers when teaching Science through an inquiry approach using Discover Primary Science & Maths resources and SEAI's [Exploring our Energy](#) Programme. The course will have an emphasis on inquiry based learning and provide opportunities to apply skills and knowledge to real life situations. Booking for these courses will open after Easter. Contact [Drumcondra Education Centre](#) [Blackrock Education Centre](#) and [Laois Education Centre](#) for further information.

[For more information visit](#)

[http://www.seai.ie/Schools/News\\_Events/Teacher-Summer-Courses.html](http://www.seai.ie/Schools/News_Events/Teacher-Summer-Courses.html)



## ESERO Ireland



### ESA'S New Robotics Training Workshop for Primary School Teachers

Upper primary school teachers from ESA's Member and Associate States\* are invited to apply to a new and unique training module on robotics. The deadline for submission of applications is 1 May 2017.

The workshop participants will be guided through activities that can be performed in the classroom: creating robots using LEGO WeDO and using them to perform a 'mission to Mars' with specific discovery objectives. Gear and pulley combinations, energy resources, and computer programming are among the subjects that will be covered and investigated.

Inspired by real ESA space missions, participants will learn about the different kinds of expertise and skills necessary to make a space project successful, and will be given hints about possible science and technology careers.

The workshop will take place on 29 and 30 June 2017 at ESA's Redu centre in Belgium. To find out more information on this amazing opportunity including how to register follow



this link:

[http://www.esa.int/Education/ESA\\_Academy/ESA\\_s\\_new\\_robotics\\_training\\_workshop\\_for\\_primary\\_school\\_teachers\\_applications\\_now\\_open](http://www.esa.int/Education/ESA_Academy/ESA_s_new_robotics_training_workshop_for_primary_school_teachers_applications_now_open)

\***ESA Member States:** Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. **Associated states:** Canada and Slovenia

## National STEM Weeks

### Technology Week



### Tech Week April 22nd – 28th 2017

Tech Week is a week-long, nationwide festival on everything to do with technology, whether it's coding, gaming, the Internet of Things, or drones. Anything goes!

### Get involved

Activities can be run by using one of the [Tech Week activity sheets](#). These can be completed in the classroom or at home. Activities will appeal to a wide range of ages and ability levels. Completing these activity sheets or your own ideas are considered an event so simply register this on [www.techweek.ie](http://www.techweek.ie) and receive Tech Week goodies for your class!

CLISTE, the digital skills programme for primary schools will be available for free as part of Tech Week 2017. For more information and to register for your free access visit <https://www.techweek.ie/resources>

To keep up to date with news, events and competitions as we approach Tech Week: [www.techweek.ie](http://www.techweek.ie), [@TechWeekIRL](https://twitter.com/TechWeekIRL) and [facebook.com/techweekireland](https://facebook.com/techweekireland)

## 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:

[Atlantic Airventure, Clare](#)

[CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory, Cork](#)

[Castlecomer Discovery Park, Kilkenny](#)

[Croker's Bee Farm, Limerick](#)

[Global Action Plan, Dublin](#)

[Irish National Stud, Kildare](#)

[Lullymore Heritage & Discovery Park, Kildare](#)

[Galway Atlantaquaria](#)

[Lifetime Lab, Cork](#)

[The Rediscovery Centre, Dublin](#)

[Seal Rescue Ireland, Wexford](#)

[Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, Wexford](#)





Check out our latest Discover Centre video, where we pay a visit to the [Secret Valley Wildlife Park](#) in Wexford.



## Partner organisations

SEAI



*Environmental activists known as The Eco Pirates, from Kill O'The Grange NS, Deansgrange, Co Dublin. Ages 10-12 handing a petition to Cathaoirleach Devlin, Dun Laoghaire*

## Students trying to stop plastic pollution...

Students at Kill O' The Grange National School are currently driving a campaign to highlight, the harmful effects of plastic pollution and its impacts on communities locally and globally. The young primary school activists have targeted their local community to spread the word about the Irish people's harmful consumption habits and their impact. The group are also campaigning for their solution to this catastrophic problem. They will also focus on Government, to prove that the introduction of a bottle deposit scheme would work in Ireland and that such a scheme could impact positively, reducing plastic pollution dramatically.

This Bottle Bill, is a law that requires a monetary deposit on plastic drinks bottles and aluminium cans. The consumer pays the retailer an extra 10-20 cent on top of the drinks price at the time of purchase and this deposit is then given back to the customer when the empty container is returned. The proven advantages of these schemes are, less litter which impacts positively on the community, wildlife on land and in the sea and it also reduce landfill capacity and the poisoning of our ecosystems.

The Eco Pirates have collected over 500 signatures on their Bottle Bill Petition. The kids presented the petition to their local TD Cormac Devlin, on Friday 3rd February. The Eco Pirates also want their communities to voice their concerns about waste to their local politicians and they want the public to support the return of bottle bill scheme.

To follow the student's progress, you can view the Eco Pirates blogs at <https://greenschoolkotgkotschool.wordpress.com/> select Greens schools. You can also email the school and we can send out copies for your school to sign. As future policy makers, The Eco Pirates, want this scheme implemented as they want to be predecessors of a country that is worth inheriting.