



e-Newsletter 50

Welcome to our last newsletter of this academic year, with lots of news about what's happening in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths all over the country, we hope you enjoy!

DPSM Programme Updates

Science Foundation Ireland Discover Science and Maths Award

The week of the awards was hectic in Primary Science HQ! We were delighted to see so many entries for the Science Foundation Ireland Discover Science and Maths Award.

Congratulations to the 593 schools that have received an Award. Our panel of adjudicators spent three days going through all the logs of evidence and were extremely impressed by the quality and variety of STEM work going on in schools all around the country. We are already looking forward to next year's Awards!

You can find a [map showing award winning schools here](#).

Schools that achieved a Plaque of STEM Excellence should receive their plaque by Tuesday, 20th of June 2017. If you have not received your plaque by this date, please contact the plaque company directly.

Wendy McGlone 014565855
wmcglone@ipsltd.ie

Interested in DPSM/ESERO Continuing Professional Development (CPD)?

If you have not received a workshop since 2015/2016, this could be your year to avail of free in-school CPD. Registration for CPD workshops will be open again in September 2017. There will be an email sent to all principals in June with further details, so keep your eyes peeled!

The workshops are a great way to operate a whole school approach to engaging with science and maths and help grow a love of investigation amongst children by assisting teachers to apply the DPSM/ESERO framework of inquiry based science teaching and learning. For more information visit -

http://www.primaryscience.ie/registerforcpd2016_intro.php

Calling out for new facilitators

Do you have a passion for STEM learning and a qualification in teaching and/or science? We are recruiting a new team of facilitators to give CPD workshops. If you think you would like to apply, please email your CV to Stephanie.oneill@sfi.ie.

Summer Courses

Make sure you check out the DPSM/ESERO Department of Education and Skills approved Teacher Summer Courses; **Using Space to teach science through Inquiry, and Junior Rocket Scientists: Space Science as a Cross-Curricular Theme**. We also have a course in partnership with SEAI, which will be held at four different venues around the country from July 3rd-7th 2017. More information about these courses can be found here

http://primaryscience.ie/dpsm_summer_courses.php

Events

[The ADAPT Centre](#), through the [Problem-Solving Initiative](#) - a two-year nationwide initiative funded by Science Foundation Ireland - is hosting FREE Problem Solving Family Day on Sat 5th August in Dublin Castle.

Giant puzzles, mind-bending games, workshops and activities for all ages!



Magical Materials: Nano and Materials

Science in the Classroom, 3rd – 7th July 2017, AMBER Centre, Naughton Institute, Trinity College

Imagine a material, tens of thousands of times smaller than a hair on your head that is 200 times stronger than steel, flexible, transparent, conductive and could be used in everything from electronics to medical devices.

Did you know that Ireland is no. 1 in the world for research into such nano-materials? Would you like to learn more and find out how you can bring this exciting area of 21st century science into your classroom?

If so – sign up now for Magical Materials – a 5 day CPD programme @ AMBER, Trinity College.



Our NanoWow resource pack will be used throughout the course, which has a particular focus on hands-on science activities in the classroom. The resource emphasises the role of pupils as scientists - encouraging children to think

like scientists and do their own research. You will also have the chance to take part in tours and lab sessions to develop content knowledge and experience the life of a scientist! All participants will receive a free copy of NanoWOW.

"Mind blowing insight into the world of materials. I'm going away with ideas on how to teach science in the classroom next year." - participant in 2014 Magical Materials Course

"I found it extremely exciting and I think the children would really enjoy it." – participant from 2015 Magical Materials Course

Cost for the week is €90. Further information, timetable and registration details by emailing ambersfi13@gmail.com.

Contact:
Rachel Kavanagh
www.ambercentre.ie
(01) 896 4621
kavanara@tcd.ie

We would like to thank all the schools for all the STEM work they have done throughout the year, and we hope you have a relaxing summer!

Happy Holidays from the DPSM Team!



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:

[Brigit's Garden, Galway](#)

[Seal Rescue Ireland, Wexford](#)

[Ballyhoura Outdoor Classroom, Limerick](#)

[Galway Atlantaquaria, Galway](#)

[Global Action Plan \(GAP\), Ireland, Dublin](#)

[Birr Castle Gardens and Science Centre, Offaly](#)

[WeCreate, Tipperary](#)

[Lough Gur, Limerick](#)

[Rediscovery Centre, Dublin](#)



Partner organisations

RDS Primary Science Fair

In 2018 there will be more opportunities for schools to participate in, or to visit, the RDS Primary Science Fair. In addition to the Dublin Fair, we have now increased capacity in Limerick and expanded to Belfast. Call for Entries for all three Fairs will open this September. For more information please visit www.primarysciencefair.com or email primarysciencefair@rds.ie to be included on our mailing list.



ESERO Ireland



Save the Date! Space Week returns to Ireland this October 4th -10th.

Details coming soon to www.spaceweek.ie with new resources available for 'The Universe in your Classroom'.

Sky Matters in the Irish Examiner – your guide to stargazing!

Ever gazed at the night sky but wondered what's up there? Then check out the Sky Matters section in the Irish Examiner for monthly tips on what to look out for.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/lifestyle/features/sky-matters-a-meteor-shower-will-light-up-the-night-sky-in-the-first-week-of-may-448487.html>

New LOFAR radio telescope at Birr Castle Demesne

Building of a major new radio telescope has started at Birr Castle Demesne. The radio telescope, called the Low Frequency Array (LOFAR), will connect Ireland to a huge international network of radio telescopes that will stretch almost 2,000 km across Europe from Ireland to Poland. You can find out more about these exciting new developments at www.lofar.ie and www.twitter.com/i_lofar.



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