

Looking back on the school year

Digital yearbook

Using the digital camera or the digital video camera to create a digital yearbook is something which you might wish to explore this month with sixth class. Children in sixth class could carry out interviews with each other using a Digital Video camera for video footage and/or audio recording using a microphone and a mini-disc recorder or a digital voice recorder. (Some digital cameras have the capacity to record video). It is good to prepare some questions in

advance so that the interviews have a sense of purpose.

Audacity is a free, easy-to-use audio editor and recorder and can be downloaded free from www.audacity.sourceforge.net/. With this the children could also record their own school year soundtrack and put it on a CD and take it with them when leaving the school or they could make a podcast of the interviews and the soundtrack and upload it to the school website or blog. The children will have many ideas and it is worth

tapping into their expertise!

Highlight of the year for each class

The children could use the digital camera/digital video camera to take pictures/video of each class and write or record a short piece of text which tells other classes about the highlight of the year for each class eg. First Communion. They can use *PhotoStory* or *PowerPoint* to present the story (audio or text) and pictures from each class and perhaps then present it to the

whole school using a digital projector, a computer/laptop and a white wall!



Information updates from the NCTE



ImageBank – a new look and feel!

Upload some pictures and information on your school garden or other pictures of interest in your locality to

www.imagebank.ie. Más maith libh is féidir an téacs a chur isteach as Gaeilge freisin.

ICT advice sheets

www.ncte.ie/ICTAdviceSupport/AdviceSheets/ The advice sheets are updated regularly to provide advice and information on a wide range of ICT equipment and related areas. Recently added Advice Sheets include topics on podcasting, blogs and visualisers.

Simplifying the purchasing of ICT equipment

ICT purchasing frameworks are new processes that simplify the purchasing of PCs, laptops, and printers for schools. These purchasing frameworks have pre-qualified a number of providers which allows schools to get up to six quotes from the main providers by sending one simple short email. Typical prices for laptops for schools are less than €500. These laptops meet

a school specification approved by the NCTE and include 2GB of memory, and a three year on site warranty. Further details on the ICT Purchasing Frameworks can be found at www.ncte.ie/ICTAdviceSupport/Purchasing/

The Broadband ServiceDesk

The ServiceDesk remains open during the summer holidays and can be contacted by calling 1800 33 44 66 or by emailing, servicedesk@ncte.ie

FÍS Summer course

The NCTE is running a FÍS (Film in Schools) summer course in Dingle, Co Kerry from the 6 – 10 July 2009. The FÍS methodology uses digital video and the medium of film to explore the primary curriculum. The five day course will involve filming, editing and understanding how to apply the FÍS methodology in the classroom.

Many schools are actively involved in FÍS, producing films which they have subsequently screened in regional events and in the National FÍS Film Festival. Please contact Michelle Herron (NCTE) on 01 7008200 to book a place.

This course qualifies for EPV days and is funded by the NCTE.

NCTE Summer Course Programme '09

The National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE), working with other educational partners, is providing a range of summer courses which focus on the integration of ICT into learning and teaching.

For a listing of Summer courses see the course schedule online at: www.ncte.ie/courseschedule. All courses are fully funded, qualify for EPV days and are available through the Education Centre Network.

www, blogs, wikis, podcasting

Blogs, wikis, podcasting – This is what they now call Web 2.0 tools! What's it all about? Are they relevant in my classroom?

The NCTE has developed a new course on these areas – Web 2.0 for Learning and Teaching, which will run in

the Autumn.

This course will show:

- how you and your children can write and share content on the internet using blogs, wikis, podcasts and other tools;
- how you can use these online tools to be more creative in

using the internet and make it more relevant to the children's learning; and

- learn how to create a school website easily using a blog;
- For more information and booking details, please contact your local education centre in September 2009.

Scoilnet brings World Book Online to your classroom

World Book, the renowned encyclopaedia and reference source is now available through Scoilnet (www.scoilnet.ie) and the Schools Broadband Network. The encyclopaedia which is normally only accessible following a substantial subscription fee is being offered to schools in Ireland free-of-charge.

The encyclopaedia itself has been in existence since 1917 and has set the standard for providing accuracy, objectivity and reliability in research materials for both children and adults. Hundreds of schools in Ireland already have volumes of the *World Book* on their shelves and will be aware of its educational use.

The World Book Online which is available to schools contains the entire text of the 22-volume encyclopaedia, plus illustrations, video clips, 3D panoramic views, and sound files. Articles bring together a complete story with multimedia content, as well as research aids and links to related information.

Its availability in school is a major advancement in the services offered through Scoilnet and will be a huge boost to using ICT for learning and teaching. As part of this licensing arrangement between NCTE and *World Book Online* free access to the service is confined to computers

accessing the internet via the Schools Broadband Network which does mean that home access will not be possible.

Readers who use the *World Book Online* will have an option of accessing content at three levels:

World Book kids

Information is aimed at younger children, up to third class. The articles tend to be short and are set in a child-friendly design and include quizzes, maps, images and school activities.

World Book students

Greater detail in the articles and includes multimedia features, special reports and research guides. Specifically targets children from 10 to 16-years.

World Book advanced

Contains all the features of students plus links to primary source material and e-books. Particularly useful for post-primary.

A traditional encyclopaedia, like *World Book Online*, is very authoritative and should always play a role in the classroom.

Access *World Book* through the home page of Scoilnet www.scoilnet.ie

If you have any problems with your free access in school call the NCTE Broadband Service Desk 1800 33 44 66.



Bainigí an-taitneamh as na laethanta saoire – Anne White,
National Coordinator, National Centre for Technology in
Education www.ncte.ie



Star site

Star Site, 2009, No 5

★ Top 10 sites

The most viewed resources on Scoilnet in mid May.

- 1 **Math Car Racing**
www.funbrain.com/osa
Test Maths skills against the computer.
- 2 **The Plains Indians**
www.saskschools.ca/~gregory/firstnations
Life and culture of the Plains Indians of North America.
- 3 **Let's Visit Australia**
www.bbc.co.uk/schools/barnabybear/stories/downunder.shtml
Explore with Barnaby Bear.
- 4 **Times Tables Challenge**
www.transum.org/Software/ablesmaster/Tablesmaster.asp
Challenge yourself on Maths.
- 5 **Map Quest: World Atlas**
<http://atlas.mapquest.com/atlas/?region=world>
An insight into every country of the world.
- 6 **World of Mud**
www.channel4.com/history/microsites/L/lostgeneration/flash/mud/mud.html
Tour the trenches of WWI.
- 7 **Maths Games**
www.cleavebooks.co.uk/trol/trolx.pdf
Details description of how to set up and play games.
- 8 **Build an Interactive Story: Native Americans**
www.schoolhistory.co.uk/storyboards/bighorn.htm
Templates enable user to build their own storyboard.
- 9 **Make A Word**
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/clifford1/flash/vowels>
Interactive game allows children make small words.
- 10 **Faith First**
<http://faithfirst.com>
Designed for use with printed material.

My favourite sites

Miriam Fitzpatrick teaches at St Kilian's Junior School, Kingswood Heights, Dublin 24.



Sparkle Box
www.sparklebox.co.uk
Great for attractive printable resources for classroom displays. Selection of pupil resources too.

Jungle Photos
www.junglephotos.com/amazon
Photos of scenery, animals, people, towns and other aspects of Amazonian life.

ImageBank
www.imagebank.ie
Great place to share photos for educational use.

My favourite sites is part of Schools Online
www.scoilnet.ie/schoolsonline