

Training Opportunities:

Please note that details of how to avail of Comenius funding are available on the Leargas website—the next deadline for applications is Sept. 17th for activities taking place after Jan. 1st 2013—

www.leargas.ie



French and Spanish workshops:

Thank you to the MLPSI teachers who attended the recent LFEE workshops in Dublin, Cork, Ennis and Kildare and the Spanish workshop in Cork. The French training events were facilitated by a tutor from the LFEE team, based in Edinburgh who many of you may know as the group responsible for the immersion language courses they facilitate in Salignac and Lyon in France and in Malaga in Spain. Further details of these language courses can be found at

www.lfee.net

The Spanish workshop was organised in conjunction with the Consejería de Educación.

School Events: Many schools organised language and cultural events to celebrate Europe Day on May 9th. Holy Family SNS in Swords, Co. Dublin, held a gala concert on May 3rd to celebrate French in their school—it was a fabulous event and we extend our thanks and congratulations to all involved.

MLPSI Update – E-zine—Issue 9: May 2012

Modern Languages in Primary Schools Initiative—Nuathangacha i mBunscoileanna

Dear Principals, Language Teachers and pupils,

We have received no official response from the DES since our last ezine. We have continued to make representations to DES officials and other public representatives in an effort to secure a review of the decision to end the MLPSI and are extremely grateful for the considerable support we have received from our schools and partner agencies. Any updates will be communicated to you as soon as we receive them. Please find below some updates on various activities organised by the MLPSI—congratulations to all pupils, teachers and schools who entered the various competitions and particularly of course, to the many winners.

Best wishes, Tanya & the MLPSI team.

Competition for MLPSI Schools: Showcasing the modern language section of the school website!

Thank you to all the schools who entered this competition to find the best modern language sections in school websites. We were extremely impressed by the quality of the entries and are very pleased to announce the following winning schools—**Best Overall prize: Barefield NS, Co. Clare; Best Blog: St. Claire's PS, Harold's Cross, D.6; Best Pupils' Involvement: Barefield NS, Co. Clare; Special recognition Awards: Scoil Eoin, Tralee, Gaelscoil Mhuscraí, Co. Cork & Scoil Raifteiri, Castlebar. Barefield NS wins €1,000 and the other category winners each win €250.**

Colegio del Año Competition: We are delighted to inform you that **Scoil Barra Naofa Cailíni**, Beaumont GNS in Cork has been awarded the prestigious title of Spanish School of the Year 2012. They will be presented with their award by the Spanish Ambassador at an event in the Spanish Embassy in Dublin on May 23rd. Congratulations also to the three runner-up schools: Scoil Fhionbarra and Cloghroe NS, both in Co. Cork and St. Laurence's NS, in Greystones.

Online Language Games : The collaborative project between the MLPSI and the Schools of Computing and Languages in DIT has come to fruition and the suite of online language games is available now on our homepage. We hope you enjoy playing them, both in school and at home! Congratulations to Ellen Griffin in Rang 6 in Gaelscoil Charrig Ui Leighin, Co. Chorcaí who won the competition to name the games—her entry **Languages4fun** is now on the website. The games will be officially launched by Mairead McGuinness, MEP, in St. Mary's NS, Fairview, Dublin 3 on June 8th.

Early Experience in German Competition: The winners of the annual competition organised in conjunction with the Goethe Institut-Dublin are as follows: 1. Colaiste Iosagain, 2. Colaiste Eoin, both in Blackrock, Co. Dublin. Well done to all the TY classes and to the primary schools involved. Details of the winning entries will be uploaded to the Primary/Secondary Links page of our website. The winning group will receive their prizes and perpetual trophy at the GDI Annual Conference in Trinity College in November.

Student teacher placements: Thank you to the many MLPSI schools that hosted student teachers from Spain, Germany and France in recent weeks.

Website Review: We have been reviewing and upgrading our website in recent weeks. We would like to thank the many teachers who took the time to respond to our questionnaire and whose feedback greatly assisted the review process. As part of this process we are also producing new teaching and learning videos which will focus on various aspects of language teaching including planning, target language use and our model of the European Language Portfolio. These videos will all be uploaded as soon as the filming and editing processes are complete. It is hoped that the MLPSI website will be maintained for future use and any updates on this will be communicated to schools and language teachers as soon as we receive them.