



THE IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

Supporting Education in Ireland, North and South

2016

April



Students at St. Mary's Secondary School in Mallow, Co. Cork display copies of the Irish Proclamation

A note from the Executive Director

The 1916 centenary gives us all a chance to pause and reflect on the incredible transformation Ireland has endured over the last 100 years. In the past century, we have watched a country fight for its freedom, struggle with independence, and emerge onto the world stage.

As we commemorate the Easter Rising, it is important not only to reflect on the past, but to look forward, hopeful, to the future.

My favorite part of the centenary is reading the proclamations for a new generation written by school children across Ireland. As you will see in the next pages, these proclamations give us all a reason to be optimistic about Ireland's future.

Here at the Partnership, we work to ensure that the next generation will be able to realize these goals. But we need visionaries like you to keep up this tradition, to invest in Ireland's future by supporting education and community development programs.

This work of future building cannot be done alone. The Partnership needs your help to ensure Ireland's next chapter will be strong, peaceful, and prosperous.

Thank you for your generous support,
Mary Sugrue

A PROCLAMATION FOR A NEW GENERATION

On March 15th, schools across Ireland were filled with sights and sounds from the past: students in historical garb performing reenactments of the Rising, children cheering as the tricolor flag is raised, pupils proudly reciting the Proclamation. This interactive format brought history to life for Ireland's youngest citizens.

"Proclamation Day" was organized by the Irish Government as an opportunity for students to reflect on the centenary and discuss their ideas for the future. To realize this, the Department of Education & Skills presented each educational institution with a copy of the Proclamation, an Irish flag, and instructions to write a proclamation

for a new generation. The flag was hand delivered to each school by a member of the Irish Defense Forces to foster a protocol of respect for the Irish tricolor flag.

The commemoration, however, extends further than March 15th. Many schools not only had assemblies during the day, but partnered with local libraries to create exhibitions of their students' projects and hosted performances throughout the year. By involving families and community members, schools have provided a forum for intergenerational dialogue about the Rising and encouraged the discussion to evolve to issues of the 21st century.

See examples of the schools' proclamations on pages 3-5.

INVEST IN THE NEXT GENERATION

Please consider making a donation in support of the Partnership's work for Ireland, North and South. Donors may select a specific school, village, town, or county as a recipient of their gift.



Junior infants at Rutland National School in Dublin performing a song on Proclamation Day



THE IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

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Students gather for the Proclamation Day assembly at St. Mary's Secondary School in Mallow, County Cork

HONORING THE WOMEN OF 1916

From the very first line, it is clear that the Proclamation was a revolutionary document. Addressed to both Irishmen and Irishwomen, the proclamation laid out a vision for a new, free, and equal society where liberties were granted to all citizens. In a time when only a handful of countries had granted women's suffrage, this was no small gesture. It was a guarantee won by the bravery, ingenuity, and commitment of the women who fought for Ireland's freedom.

100 years later at a rural secondary school in Mallow, Co. Cork, students and teachers worked to uncover the hidden stories of the women of 1916. They sought to go beyond their textbooks and paint a fuller picture of the Rising.

History classes studied the contributions of Countess Markievicz, Margaret Skinnider, Kathleen Lynch, and Elizabeth O'Farrell. Art students made pieces inspired by women's contributions to the Rising. Home economics classes worked together to cross-stitch a frame filled with symbols of Irish independence. Students wrote speeches, poems, papers on the women of 1916.

What did they conclude? "The women of



Marie, a fifth year at St. Mary's, delivered a passionate speech entitled 'Pride in and respect for the Irish Flag' at the school's Proclamation Day assembly

1916 were spies, snipers, couriers and gun runners. They were also wives, mothers, sisters and girlfriends."

The women of the rebellion were ordinary people living extraordinary lives. Just like their male counterparts, they were imprisoned, wounded, and killed. Yet, as the students at St. Mary's Secondary School found, their stories often did not make it into history books.

100 years later, 500 pupils are working to set the record straight.

BANTEER PRIMARY SCHOOL'S PROCLAMATION FOR A NEW GENERATION

written by students on March 15th, 2016

POBLAcht NA H EIREANN
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND

We the pupils of Banteer National School, honour and are extremely grateful to all those who fought during the 1916 rising. Our proclamation states our views on the current affairs we have to face and will have to face as the children of Ireland and the future generations.

We believe that Ireland's healthcare should be greatly improved from the treatment of the common cold to diseases such as cancer and leukaemia. The hospitals of Ireland need more beds.

The government needs to use the money they get from taxes properly. We hope everyone gets the same standard of education and we hope it will improve.

Homelessness is a big problem in Ireland. There should be more affordable houses available and everyone should have a place to call home.

We believe that, as many Irish people emigrated in the past, we should help and welcome people fleeing war.

The Gardai in our country are very vulnerable to crime as they do not have the proper resources or equipment. A limit to drinking should be enforced and it would be far safer for the driver and the bystanders as well. Stopping speeding cars will make our roads safer.

Please God we will have peace in our country for the next 100 years and experience no war.

We believe that our country should be respected for the wonderful and beautiful country it is and not known for its' past drinking habits.

We must respect the flag.

We hope to keep up with the rest of the world in technology.

We must stop bullying and promote kindness.

We must start speaking Irish more and promote the culture.

We have beautiful environment and wildlife. We should respect and take care to preserve it. Recycling is very important too. We must help out with climate change. We hope that there will be no pollution. We need to plant more trees and stop cutting them down.

Mistreating animals is not tolerated and has to stop.

We should be exercising more and eating healthy food.

More people should go to mass and respect God.

Everyone should have equal rights and opportunities no matter what their race, colour, religion or culture.

Signed on Behalf of Banteer N S

Sadhbh Neenan
Cian O'Donoghue
Steven Kelleher

Tara Sweeney
Ruairi O'Connell
Donal O'Donoghue

Banteer Primary School in County Cork is a 2016 Partnership Grant recipient

Photo: A teacher at St. Mary's in Mallow raises the Irish flag on Proclamation Day





Students at Tarbert National School in County Kerry display their research on the seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation



THE IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

The Irish American Partnership works to empower the next generation of Irish leaders by supporting educational initiatives through direct grants to primary schools, science teacher training, university access scholarships, and employment learning programs. The Partnership provides forums for visiting leaders from Ireland to speak in the U.S., connecting Irish-Americans with their heritage and promoting economic development through tourism, trade, and mutual exchange.



Students at Darrara National School in Clonakilty, Co. Cork march in a Proclamation Day parade (above and left)

TARBERT NATIONAL SCHOOL'S PROCLAMATION FOR A NEW GENERATION

POBLAcht NA H EIREANN

TARBERT NATIONAL SCHOOL

OF THE

IRISH REPUBLIC TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND

We, the students of Tarbert National School, pledge our allegiance to our nation, Éire, and we proclaim our fidelity to her flag. The Tricolour - Green, White and Orange: The Green represents the Irish of old, the White symbolises peace and the Orange today personifies the multicultural diversity which we embrace in Irish society today.

The Leaders of the 1916 Rising had a vision for Ireland as a nation which promised freedom, tolerance and equal opportunities for all its citizens. Today our Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens and affirms the right of each citizen to the pursuit of happiness and prosperity.

We aspire to an Ireland where opportunities are available to all who are willing and able to seek employment and where workers will receive a fair remuneration for their effort. We wish to implement a fair taxation system which will provide sufficient resources to fund our society's needs and satisfactory infrastructure while still encouraging enterprise.

Each citizen has the right to a fundamental education at Primary and Secondary level and support towards the expense of Third level education. We yearn for a society which will have an efficient healthcare system where expertise and facilities are available to all. We desire reliable community policing where familiar and well-respected members of An Garda Síochána are stationed in each locality.

We strive to eliminate the humiliation of homelessness by providing social housing for those who are unable to fund homes of their own. We have the right to clean water and we shall undertake the responsibility to keep our rivers, lakes and coastline unpolluted. We shall endeavour to control the consumption of fossil fuels to reduce global warning. We will foster and promote the production and use of renewable energy that will continue to meet our needs without ever running out.

We wish to promote and preserve the Irish language throughout all the counties of Ireland. We treasure our history and culture, our myths and legends, our poets and musicians, our Irish dancing and Gaelic games.

We, the pupils and staff of Tarbert National School, look to the future in the hope of fulfilling our vision. We will work together to make this vision a reality in the hope of a better Ireland for everyone. We will build upon that freedom in which our ancestors bravely died for in 1916.

Signed on Behalf of Tarbert National School
EVA NIC LOCHLAIN GRÁINNE MUSGARBHA
TOMÁS Ó LAOCHA DÓNAL Ó SÚILLEABHÁIN

“I want people to believe in Ireland, to make her known to all the other countries in Europe, and she can make herself known, but only if she gets help. We need to respect Ireland and give her fair treatment to make her shine in this world. We need Ireland to become one of the best countries in this world.”

-Cillian, 4th Class at Darrara National School, Clonakilty, Co. Cork



“Ireland” by Cian
5th class at Banteer Primary School, Co. Cork

Isle that longed for her freedom

Rebellion her only hope

Eire was ready, she had enough

Looking at Britain's trouble decided it was time

Anger she was feeling

Now she attacked

Did her best but lost

REFLECTING BACK ON 1916

“2016 will belong to everyone on this island and to our friends and families overseas - regardless of political or family background, or personal interpretation of our modern history.”
-Irish Department of Education & Skills

For Irish students today, a world without internet seems like ancient history. In an effort to help the county's youngest citizens connect with the past, the Department of Education & Skills suggested that students compile reports on their ancestors in 1916. Schools approached this in a variety of ways—by reading the reports at an assembly, creating exhibitions at their local library, or even by dressing like their ancestors for a city parade!

Noting that 1916 was a pivotal moment in many countries, the Irish Government also encouraged schools to use this exercise as an opportunity to teach students about the context of the Easter Rising within world history—fostering inclusion and understanding between students of different backgrounds. The students then came together to collectively write their proclamation for the next generation, embracing their diverse pasts while looking forward to a common future.

Partnership grant recipient Rutland National School used these guidelines to create an inclusive centennial program for their diverse and thriving student population. Their Proclamation Day celebration was pulsing with energy as students performed songs, recited poems, showcased their art, and explained what this day meant to them. There was even a lively rap about 1916 in the mix!

“cherishing all the children of the nation equally”

SCIENCE

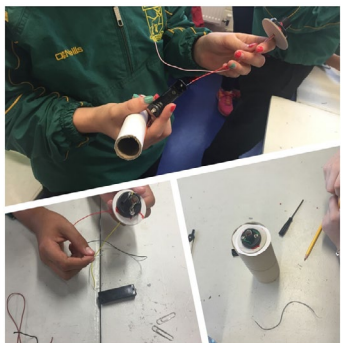
How much electricity is used unnecessarily when leaving devices on standby?

DISCOVERING THE SCIENCE BEHIND WEATHER PREDICTION

At the six-pupil Scoil Naisiunta Inis Meadhain Primary School on the Aran Islands, science and history converged as students discovered the science behind their ancestor's weather prediction.

Using a Partnership grant and her own ingenuity, Principal Orlaith Breathnach devised a science program for the school's pupils exploring the accuracy of historical weather prediction techniques and sayings. The students began by interviewing fishermen and farmers about methods they use to detect weather patterns. They then went back to the classroom to put these to the test. Each day, the children kept a record of the weather temperature, rainfall, wind speed, and air pressure using modern scientific techniques. They graphed these variables monthly to compare to the historical methods.

Then, just as their grandparents did before them, the students built an air pressure gauge from a long necked bottle overturned in a rain jar filled with water dyed from colored papers. Graphing the changes in water height, they observed that the water rises and falls in the bottle based on the pressure in the air. When they overlaid these graphs with those created based on current science techniques, they found that their ancestors had it right. Amazed by the accuracy of this method, they went back out in the community to record common sayings about weather on the island for the very first time. By compiling this information, they have created a written testament to the scientific contributions of the Aran Islands, and in doing so, won national recognition at the Ericsson National Science Competition.



Students at Gaelscoil Osraí, Co. Kilkenny investigated circuits and electricity under the tutelage of facilitator Michelle Maher. Here, they are constructing lighthouses with working circuits and switches.



Students from Senior classes in Lisnafunchin National School, Co. Kilkenny became forensic scientists with a lesson planned by the Kilkenny Education Centre

DEMISTIFYING SCIENCE TEACHING IN KILKENNY

The Partnership has been working with The Kilkenny Education Centre for the past decade to ensure primary school teachers have the confidence and resources to supply a quality science education to Ireland's youth. Since many of them did not receive science training in college, this is an essential step in ensuring students will be proficient in STEM material.

The Kilkenny Education Centre currently serves 32 teachers spanning 20 schools. The teachers have already attended three professional development seminars this year, which develop core skills in science teaching, with a fourth one scheduled for later this month. The next professional development session will focus on constructing a wind tunnel and stomp rocket—a lesson plan teachers can take back and implement at their schools.

Centre facilitator Michelle Maher, a fully qualified science teacher, has also visited each of the 20 schools to provide a science lesson and work with teachers in their classrooms. This program has made a world of difference in bringing quality science education to rural communities.

At which launch angle will a rocket fly furthest?

How do different soil types affect plant growth?

BUILDING IRELAND'S FUTURE: RDS Primary Science Fairs

Why is Nitrogen fixation such an important process?

Partnership Co-Sponsors First Regional Fair in Limerick

One may be hard-pressed to find an American elementary school without a science fair, but in Ireland these events are still rarities. The RDS and The Irish American Partnership are seeking to change that by hosting regional science fairs where classes of students work together to present their project and watch science come to life through interactive demonstrations performed by professionals in science and technology.

For the past three years, the RDS has hosted a Primary Science Fair in Dublin, which the Partnership supported by providing travel grants to rural schools. However, the Dublin fair quickly became over-subscribed and excluded schools that could not make the journey. Thus, the RDS and The Irish American Partnership began to regionalize the fair, beginning in Limerick. This year, an additional 2,000 students were able to experience the excitement of science learning at the RDS Primary Science Fair Limerick.

With your help, the Partnership looks forward to building on the success of the Dublin and Limerick Fairs in the years to come!

LIMERICK	2,000 STUDENTS	COMBINED, THEY HAD 28,000 ATTENDEES
	60 SCHOOLS	
	2 DAYS	
DUBLIN	3,000 STUDENTS	
	120 SCHOOLS	
	3 DAYS	

Can the flush of a toilet cistern create enough power to light a light bulb?



A student explains her class project investigating *Can we say honey is a wonder food?*



Students from Courtenay NS in Limerick presenting their project to Partnership Board member Sir Bruce Robinson



Young scientists test different sources of local water to determine which is the hardest

LEARNING

ST. PATRICK'S DAY BREAKFAST CELEBRATIONS



Alderman Ed Burke, Mary Sugrue, Consul General Orla McBreen, Alderman Pat O'Connor, and Dale Crammond from the Irish embassy

CHICAGO

370 Partnership supporters attended the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Breakfast Celebration, featuring remarks by **Consul General of Ireland to Chicago Orla McBreen, Alderman Ed Burke, and Senator Dick Durbin.**

Thank you to our breakfast sponsors: Edward T. Joyce & Associates, Clune Construction Company, Flood Brothers, Aerlingus, and Tourism Ireland



Minister Heather Humphreys, Ed Forry, Consul General Fionnuala Quinlan, State Senator Linda Dorcea Forry, and Joe Leary

BOSTON

Over 300 people gathered at the Boston Harbor Hotel on March 17th to enjoy a world-class performance from the **Maynooth University Chamber Choir** and hear speeches from **Irish Minister Heather Humphreys and City of Boston Corporation Counsel Eugene O'Flaherty.**

Thank you to our breakfast sponsors: VPNE Parking Solutions, Charles L. Donahue Jr., Ironshore, Aerlingus, and Tourism Ireland

NOLLAIG NA mBAN BREAKFAST BENEFITS MARY ROBINSON CENTRE IN BALLINA, MAYO



The Mary Robinson Centre site

Over the past four years, The Irish American Partnership has been re-inventing the old Irish tradition of Nollaig na mBan, or "Little Women's Christmas" by highlighting female leaders who have made an impact in their communities. While the origins of the celebration harken back to rural Ireland, when families would express thanks for women's labor over the holiday season, the Partnership has reclaimed the day as a broader celebration of women's contributions to society.

Former Irish President Mary Robinson keynoted the breakfast, held on January 6th at the University Club of Washington DC. She delivered poignant remarks on the importance of women's leadership, reflecting on her term as President and UN High Commissioner of Human Rights, and her own experience with Nollaig na mBan.

At the event, the Partnership donated \$12,000 to the Mary Robinson Centre, Ireland's first Presidential Library and Museum, located in Ballina, Co. Mayo. The Centre will serve as a permanent reminder of the importance of female leaders in Ireland's history, bringing international tourism to Mayo and serving as an educational resource for students across the globe.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, June 6: Chicago Golf Tournament, **Beverly Country Club**

Monday, June 13: Newport Country Club, **Newport Country Club**

Monday June 20: Albany Golf Tournament, **Schuyler Meadows Club**

August 28-September 2: Irish American Partnership Leadership Mission **Dublin & Belfast, Ireland**