

Presentation of Awards for Co-operation is Cool Project
Laois Education Centre Thursday 2nd April 2009

This project is run in partnership with Laois Education Centre, Laois Partnership and Glanbia.

434 pupils from 11 primary and post primary schools exhibited 14 projects in the Co-operation is Cool Project and the result of their work was evaluated on Thursday 2nd April in Laois Education Centre. The pupils have been supported by their teachers, the curriculum resource materials prepared by Paddy Bates of Laois Education Centre, parents and their local community in preparing their projects based on Co-operation.

Prize Winners:

Prize	School	Project	Teacher
Overall	Scoil Naomh Eoin, Rath, Birr Offaly	Co-oibriú í Scoil Naisiúnta Naomh Eoin	Maria Davis & Caitriona Howell
2 nd Prize	Tullamore College Tullamore, Offaly	'The Apprentice' Project	Renee Gallagher
3 rd Prize	Ballyadams NS Ballyadams, Laois	K-NEX - Engineers Save Lives	Breda Murray
4 th Prize	Rosenallis NS	Story Sacks	Jackie Hyland
5 th Prize	Camross NS	Emo Court - Inside and Outside	Mary McCarthy & Talitha Horan
Logo Winner	Castlecuffe NS, Clonaslee, Co Laois	Emo Court: Castlecuffe's Co-operative Creations	Bridie Dunne & Maureen Butterfield
Certificate of Participation	Ballyadams NS Ballyadams, Laois	Polar Exploration - An Irish Connection	Kathleen O' Connor
Certificate of Participation	Coláiste Naomh Cormac	CNC Says no to Bullying	Camille King
Certificate of Participation	Coolderry NS Birr, Co Offaly	Coolderry Website including Donaghmore Co-op	Una Teehan & Geraldine Coakley
Certificate of	Rosenallis NS	Emo Court	Gemma Goulding

Participation			
Certificate of Participation	Rosenallis NS	Rosenallis Athletics Club	Gemma Goulding
Certificate of Participation	Sacred Heart PS Portlaoise	Emo Court	Roseann Sherlock & Ann Marie Ryan
Certificate of Participation	St Brigid's NS, Croghan, Offaly	Co-operation is Fuel	Gerry Hickey
Certificate of Participation	St Josephs PS, Tullamore, Co Offaly	Our School Website	Helen Nelligan

In addition to Laois Partnership and Glanbia who have sponsored the prizes for this competition since its initiation, two new sponsors Glenbarrow Beef Co-op and NIS (Network Infrastructure Systems (NIS) Rahan have come on board this year. Laois Education Centre coordinates and cosponsors this event. Without the continued support of the partners and our new sponsors this project would not be feasible. Each participating school received a framed certificate of participation, a copy of Office and Publisher software and each participating student received a certificate.

The overall prize of a high spec Laptop was sponsored and presented by Gerry Buckley, Director of NIS, Rahan, Tullamore, Co Offaly. NIS also sponsored and presented the Logo competition prize.

Other prizes which included Laptops, Digital Cameras and Memory Keys were presented by Michael Bergin from Laois Partnership, John Carroll from Glanbia, John Miller from Glenbarrow Beef Co-op and Paddy Bates from Laois Education Centre.

The project was evaluated by:

Orla Mullins	Laois Partnership
Willie McTiernan	Former ICT Advisor with Kilkenny Education Centre
Bridie Dunne	Retired Primary School Principal
Rosemary Day	Co-ordinator of Emo Project, Laois Education Centre
John Carroll	Glanbia
Evelyn Reddin	Laois County Enterprise Board

Michael Bergin, Chairperson of Laois Leader Board, welcomed everyone to the sixth year of the project which has been very popular with both primary and post primary schools as a means of developing the knowledge that young people have around co-operation and the history of the co-operative movement and its importance in Ireland. The project also introduces the concept of working together to young people as Laois Partnership, Glanbia and Laois Education Centre are doing so successfully with this project. This project has been a great success and the 14 projects prove this. The skills

learned by the students in this programme are never forgotten, even if not used for a number of years. To see young people becoming involved in their own local area and for the benefit of their community is positive and part of the ethos of Laois Partnership.

Michael Bergin continued; "I would like to thank Jim Enright and the staff of the Laois Education Centre for all their work with this project. I would like to thank the teachers from the participating schools. I would like to thank the Board of Glanbia for their continued support. I would like to thank the Board and staff of Laois Partnership for their commitment to this project. I would like to wish all the young people here tonight every success and hope that they retain a pride in their own area."

John Miller of Glenbarrow Beef Co-op expressed his delight at being involved in this year's project. John went on to say that Glenbarrow Beef Coop is delighted to be in a position to support school generated initiatives like this and the quantity and quality of the projects displayed here this make it a very worthwhile endeavour.

Jim Enright, Director of Laois Education Centre congratulated the teachers, pupils and parents on their wonderful creative work. He thanked the schools that continue to support this project and welcomed new schools. He also thanked the partners Laois Partnership and Glanbia for their continued support of the project and welcomed the two additional new sponsors NIS, Rahan, Tullamore and Glenbarrow Beef Co-op. Jim thanked his colleagues in the Centre for their work and in particular Yvonne Nolan who coordinated this project on behalf of the centre. He further thanked Paddy Bates who although retired has put a lot of work into ensuring that this competition is a success.

Paddy Bates who mc'd the evening, welcomed and thanked teachers, parents, pupils, judges, partners Glanbia and LEADER and new sponsors NIS and Glenbarrow Beef Co-op.