

**Dublin West Education Centre AGM**  
**25<sup>th</sup> February 2008**  
**Chairpersons Address**

Ladies and Gentlemen you are all very welcome to the Dublin West Education Centre Annual General Meeting for 2008.

The Centre is one of a network of education centres throughout Ireland. Dublin West is part of this growing provision of professional development in education.

The management, administration and hosting of an array of programmes, projects, meetings, resources, courses and inservice events as well as the dissemination of information, requires a well organised network of Centres. Dublin West Education Centre is part of this network and has created and delivers its own dynamic web of activities.

DWEC is located in the North West corner of the Institute of Technology Tallaght. A successful Centre based on the large continent of progressive staff, personnel, teachers, tutors and guests.

The Centre's administrative staff must be congratulated on their work and success. Under the direction of the Centre Administrator, Deirdre, the staff of Angie, Beverley, Carmel, Doireann, Linda, Mary and Yvonne continue to place DWEC to the fore in the professional development of education.

The success of all the activities associated with the Centre can be credited to the work of the administrative staff. They deal with the day to day activities and programmes that are associated with this Centre.

Thanks also to Marian, Pat and Paddy for presenting the centre as one which is hospitable, and welcoming.

The centre has links to many programmes some of which are located outside of the Centre and I take this opportunity to congratulate all these projects especially:

PCSP	National Coordinator	Marie Mc Loughlin
	Aine Duffy - Administrator for PCSP and the PCSP staff	
SMPP Walk Tall	National Coordinator	Mary Johnston
Reading Recovery	Vanessa Timon, Reading recovery Teacher Leader	

We thank the many people who are associated with and work for the betterment of all projects. We also would like to thank the Steering groups and committees who are associated with all projects.

To the management committee, for whom I have the honour of representing as Chairperson, I thank them for their continued support to Dublin West Education Centre.

This committee once again worked hard to steer the Centre through another very successful year. It is my pleasure to be a part of this committed, concerned, careful and cheerful group of people. They give of their time and professionalism to further the success of the Centre.

John Williams	Vice Chairperson
John O'Mahony	Treasurer
Yvonne Ruddy	Secretary
Jim Ahern	Secretary
Deborah Dunne	
Ultan Mac Mahuna	
Michael Murphy	
Mairin Ni Cheilleachair	
Ellen O'Reilly	

I thank those who are on sub committees. They are a vital entity to the overall management plan of the Centre.

Geography would be an appropriate theme for the past years activities in DWEC where the influence of the Centre has been experienced beyond the walls of the building.

D W E C could stand for ....

D	Domain	Centres region
W	World	World Wide Web
E	Europe	Influence
C	Country	Needs of the wider community

#### Domain

The Dublin West region has benefited from the day to day work of the centre. Once again the Write a Book project was to the fore.

#### World

Through the World Wide Web online material was made available to a greater audience and DWEC has influenced the superhighway. The provision of on line summer courses for 2007 is the beginning of further development.

## Europe

Europe has benefited and been influenced by DWEC. The impact of the centre on Europe can be measured from the enormous enthusiasm and success from the participation of schools in European projects. The Roots and Wings Network has certainly benefited from the Centres input.

## Country

The many programmes facilitated by the centre go nation wide. DWEC is the hub from which the knowledge bases is distributed, PCSP and SMPP having significant impacts throughout Ireland.

One particular event I would like to mention.

In October 2007 the Roots and Wings Conference was hosted for 5 days by DWEC and entitled 'Sharing Similarities - Respecting Differences'.

The staff of DWEC hosted visitors from all over Europe. The impact that the conference had on these visiting educationalists was outstanding. It was an honour to be associated with the Centre as the participants were treated to a conference rich in Irish cultural, social and educational matters.

I have mentioned the staff members of the Centre but I would like to specifically mention 3 other people.

### Fintan Keating - ICT Advisor

Fintan could genuinely be known as the 'hub' of the Centre. Fintan has progressed the education of teachers and pupils through the world of ICT. His involvement in the Roots and Wings conference has been outstanding and he is held in high esteem among the many participants. His advice and courses provide an array of subjects at many levels to suit those who must now make 'Education TIC'. That is Technology, Information and Communication. Through his work he has facilitated the world to enter the classroom.

### Siobhan Kerr - Development & Operations Manager

Siobhan has been one of the key elements in the progressive development of the Centre. She has carried out her duties of development and operations with great distinction. Siobhan has been an exceptional addition to the development and progress of the Centre.

Gerard McHugh - Director

Gerard is an exceptional director, leader, personable person and a very hard working gentleman.

His work within the Centre has influence many and whoever meets Gerard through the many programmes and associates are always impressed by his professional and caring attributes.

Gerard, as we all know, works diligently for the good of the Centre. With such a character it is no surprise that Gerard is consulted widely and his opinions are highly respected. His influence spans local, national and international platforms.

DWEC are fortunate to have Gerard as Director.

On behalf of those who are associated with the Centre I am honoured to say, Thank You.

Finally

The work going through the Centre has continued to present DWEC in a high profile position within education.

I thank everyone involved and look forward to the continued development of the education profession and the contribution to the network of education centres by DWEC.

Eddie Guilmartin  
Chairperson DWEC