

Clare Champion

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St. Mochulla's takes part in unique European schools heritage project

The teachers and students of St Mochulla's are about to start the final phase of their Comenius Project. The project titled CHOIR (Common Heritage of Individual Regions) has been running for 18 months and involves partner schools in Spain, Austria, Italy and Denmark.

The aim of the project is to create a European Cultural Box. The first stage in the creation of the European Cultural Box was each school designing their own Cultural Box. The content of each was decided upon when all the participants visited Clare Education Centre and St Mochulla's N.S. in Oct '08. This was a wonderful experience for all in St Mochulla's and added to by the local St Patrick's Pipe Band who welcomed all the visitors in the school.

From Oct '08 to May '09 each country developed their own box then exchanged them with each other. These boxes were displayed in the school hall for the whole school community and with the cooperation of local librarian Ann McNamara items from each box were put on display in the local library.

The next meeting in Austria in Oct '09 decided the content of the European Box. The Box will feature the results of a Photo Marathon; each school was asked to choose 5 photos taken by the children, to represent each of the following Love, Happiness, Relaxation, Pride, Loneliness.

Also included will be children's interpretation of Gustav Klimt's painting 'The Kiss'; a short video on 'A day in a students life'; A multilingual dictionary of basic phrases; children's work in the theme of Emigration and a song of welcome which will be performed by all the choirs in the 5 different schools. When the children have completed this work it will be brought to the next meeting which will be in Sesto in Italy in March 2010. Here final preparations will be made on the European Box – when the Box is complete it will be in electronic format and also in hard copy.

The electronic version will be available to all through the various Colleges of Education and Education Centres in the 5 different countries. The hard copy version will be sent to each different school that took part in the project for display. This will give the children a chance to view their work and those from Austria, Spain, Italy and Denmark.

The Comenius Project which is part of the European Life Long Learning Programme is funded by the European Parliament through our national agency Léargas. Further information and updates can be accessed through Clare Education Website www.clareed.ie and click on CHOIR.