
REFLECTION ON THE SCHOOL YEAR 2003-2004

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Jean Piaget wrote 'the principal goal of education is to create men who are capable of doing new things, not simply of repeating what other generations have done'. This year the activities of Bridging the Gap were exactly what Piaget would have approved of - it was a year of doing new things.

In my view partnership was one of the central themes of the year. A new partnership was forged between Cork Printmakers, Fota Wildlife Park and Bridging the Gap primary schools, which culminated in the successful 'Tyger Tyger Burning Bright' project. Bridging the Gap built on its partnership with Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) co-ordinators by assisting in the Maths for Fun project, the success of which was made possible through the commitment of HSCL and parents. Parental involvement and partnership in Bridging the Gap activities was most apparent this year. Partnership between University College Cork (UCC) students and Bridging the Gap became a reality through a concert hosted by music students for pupils.

Partnerships already established between schools and UCC continued. Numerous UCC staff supported school based projects, presented at professional development events and facilitated visits to the university for pupils and parents. In particular Bridging the Gap developed its partnership with the Science Faculty, Engineering Faculty and Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha. Other established partnerships between the project and National Centre for Technology in Education continued through the provision of tuition in information technology for teachers in Bridging the Gap schools. Subsidised tickets to Cork Opera House were repeated again this year, as were scholarships for principals to the Project Zero Summer Institute at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. June 2004 saw another showcasing event at which over 1,200 pupils from Bridging the Gap schools performed on stage.

I feel that the strength of Bridging the Gap this year lay in the high level of participation and the building of partnerships. I look forward to building on these partnerships and developing new partnerships in the years ahead.