



Intel holds Mini Scientist Exhibition

For the past number of weeks, fourth, fifth and sixth class students from schools in the Kildare region have been turning their hand to science and working hard to impress as they take part in the annual Intel **Mini Scientist** competition.

The competition, which has been running since 2003, has two phases. The first phase involves students participating at local level exhibitions where Intel judges visit the participating schools, choosing three winning projects in each. The second phase saw each of these winning projects take part in a Regional final, which was hosted at the Intel Ireland campus in Leixlip recently.

The children had to base their projects on one of the four strands contained within the National Primary Science Curriculum, which are Living Things, Energy and Forces, Materials, and Environmental Awareness and Care.

The Regional final saw the selected groups display their work to a panel of Intel judges who had the difficult task of choosing six winners from the very creative variety. The judging panel was made up of volunteers from Ireland Fab Operations Staff who visited each project stand and read the accompanying projects books which had been written by the children. Employees also had the chance to come along and view the work of the local children.

After much deliberation, the judges announced their six winners as 'Are your hands really clean?' by Scoil Naomh Brid, Celbridge, 'Evolution' by North Kildare Educate Together, 'Let's Play

Fetch' by St. Patricks Boys NS, Clane, 'Swine Flu Project' by Scoil Bhríde, Leixlip, 'Natural Sources of Electric Power' by Maynooth, and 'Crickets and their favourite flavours' by Scoil Naomh Brid, Celbridge.

Sarah Sexton, Intel's External Relations Specialist, was delighted with the success of this year's competition. She told *Kildare Times*, "This year, we have again seen a fantastic standard of projects amongst the participants. The exhibition has been a great way to encourage enthusiasm and practical learning in science."

The winning projects will progress to the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2010 in the RDS at the start of January and present their work at the Primary Science section.



Pictured are Jim O'Hara, Intel Ireland General Manager and Vice President Technology Manufacturing Group, Intel Corp, and Philip Moynagh, Fab 24 Factory Manager, with regional final winners from Scoil Bhríde, Leixlip