

Green Schools.

We had two visits from Martina Butler. Her first visit consisted of lessons around finding and identifying wild flowers and mini beasts. The children were nature investigators for the day. Her second visit, in January was based on the theme of energy and identifying renewable sources of energy.

Litter groups will be re-established and now that the weather has improved emphasis will be placed on tidying up areas that were neglected during the winter.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Aisling Keaveney who won €25 worth of vouchers in the Sugradh Christmas annual competition

Expression of Sympathy

We, as a school community wish to extend our sincere sympathy to two of our staff members who have been recently bereaved. We also acknowledge members of our school community who have lost a loved one. You are in our thoughts and prayers and we offer you our support at this difficult time. To your loved ones we say "Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha".

School Closure

School closes on Friday Mar 27th @12.30p.m and buses will commence collecting children @ 12p.m. School re-opens on **Monday April 13th.**

Parent /Teacher Meetings

It is our policy to hold parent teacher meetings in November over 2 evenings and give parents an opportunity to discuss their child(rens) progress at that stage. However it arises from the questionnaires that a small minority of parents believe this is not enough. We request that you refer to the communication policy where parents or guardians are advised to contact the class teacher if they have any concern at any time throughout the year. Please contact Mrs McGourty between 9.30a.m. and 2.30p.m daily to arrange an appointment that is mutually convenient for parent and teacher.

Art Exhibition

Our entries from the Solas Art Gallery are now hung in reception area and are an interesting representation of the interests of the children. Last year we had many minions on display and this year we have minecraft and Frozen themed pictures!!! Feel free to have a browse if you are in the school for any reason. As usual a huge thanks to Jim and Christopher who help Ms McHugh hang the exhibition during mid-term break.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

Angela White, Finola McGowan, Olivia McHugh, Rachel Keane, Fidelma Glancy, Nicola Heslin, Micheál Mc Kiernan, Gearóidín Ní Chongaile, Geraldine McWeeney, Mary Scott, Joan Tiernan, Bernadette McGrath and Christina McGourty.

St Brigid's N.S Drumcong Spring Newsletter March 2015



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Dear Parents/Guardians.

Easter is fast approaching and it is time to reflect on the events that has taken place since the beginning of the New Year. We also take a look at the upcoming events which are scheduled for the third term. We take this opportunity to sincerely thank you the parents, the pupils, staff members and visitors to our school for your contribution to the teaching and learning that takes place in our school. We are delighted to share that all outside personnel comment on the welcoming atmosphere and the enthusiasm and interest shown by our pupils.

Enrolment 2015-2016

The enrolment process for the new junior infants is currently underway. We request that if you have not yet enrolled your child for the new academic year that you contact Mrs McGourty (school secretary) between 9.30a.m -2.30p.m daily. She will send you a Registration form. Please ensure that you detail any additional needs or important relevant information regarding your child. Please be assured that any information given is confidential. An induction evening for the parents of new infants will take place on Tues June 9th. The new children will then be invited into the classroom on Thurs June 11th from 9.20 – 10.40am.

School Self-Evaluation

Thank you for completing and returning questionnaires regarding Literacy and oral language. We have compiled the results. We will be focussing on the importance of Oral Language development next year and new resources and methodologies are being considered. Work is underway in all classrooms to promote and extend vocabulary, speaking and listening.

MLL-WSE Report

This report is published on the Department of Education and Skills website and is available for viewing. Log on to www.education.ie to view our report. It will also be uploaded to our school website shortly www.drumcongns.ie.

Fundraising.

The staff and pupils made St Brigid's Day crosses and these were blessed and sold on Sunday February 1st. A total of €250 was raised and presented to Mary McKeon development officer with the Simon Community for the Northwest. We sincerely thank all who contributed to this worthwhile cause.

Cake Sale

Our parents association are hosting a cake sale to boost funds for the purchase of a polytunnel and necessary equipment for maintenance of the school grounds. Your support is gratefully appreciated.

We were also invited to take part in the Tesco fundraising initiative and when our school is chosen please ask all family members, relatives and friends to select our school and place blue tokens into our tube. The more tokens collected the higher the proportion of funds distributed to our school.

Sport

The 5th and 6th class children were given the opportunity to meet the Connacht Rugby team in Carrick on Shannon. They had the chance to learn new skills and interact with the team members. Thanks to parents who helped out on the day by driving them there.

On Friday, February 13th, athletics skills training commenced for all children. This will take place over the coming months.

On Wednesday March 11th, 45 children took part in the Leitrim indoor athletics competition run by Leitrim Sports Partnership. 3 of our 4 teams qualified for the finals on Thursday March 19th in Ballinamore. These teams were 3rd and 4th class girls, 3rd and 4th class boys and 5th and 6th class girls. Well done to all who took part.

Cumann na mBunscol

The boys competitions will commence on Monday March 23rd and the girls competitions will commence on Thursday April 16th. All children taking part have a copy of the dates, times and venues of all matches. Should any dates change notice will be given to the children.

GAA coaching has begun. This will run for a 10 week period.

The girls schools team is currently looking for a volunteer to train them (for 4-5 weeks after Easter). This would be somebody with Garda Vetting and preferably a course done in GAA coaching. If you have a child playing GAA and are willing to volunteer, please contact Micheál McKiernan.

Early Maths Activities for Infants.

Mrs Keane and the infants are collecting tops of jars, cartons, lids, buttons, pine cones, shells etc. for early maths activities i.e. sorting and classifying by colour, shape, size and regular and irregular shapes. Please collect any tops that are safe and clean and send them into school.

Welcome

We welcome Michael & Eileen Maguire to our school and hope that they will be very happy with us



First Confession

Congratulations to the boys and girls in 2nd class who received this sacrament on Wednesday March 11th 2015 in St Brigid's church. Thanks to Ms Glancy, Ms O'Rourke, Fr Tomás and you the parents for helping the children prepare for their first confession.

First Holy Communion will take place on Sunday May 17th 2015 in St Brigid's Church @11.30 a.m. Choir preparation will commence after Easter and children are asked to contribute to this ceremony by coming along and singing in the choir.

Confirmation

In preparation for Confirmation the 5th and 6th class pupils went on a day retreat to Ballin-tubber Abbey in Mayo. Thanks to Mrs White, Mrs Heslin and Fr. Flynn for organising this day of reflection.

Congratulations to the pupils in 5th and 6th class who received this sacrament on Friday March 6th 2015 in St Brigid's church. This was celebrated by Bishop Francis Duffy and assisted by Fr Tomás and an able team of altar servers. Thanks to Mrs White and Mrs Heslin for preparing the confirmandi. We thank Ms McHugh and Jane Cowley and choir for enhancing the ceremony with music and song. We thank all the sponsors and you the parents for all the effort and hard work preparing the children for this special day.

Enrolment for Post Primary Schools

Representatives from the local post primary schools came to visit the pupils in 6th class and presented what subjects are on offer in their school. By now the children have attended open days and evenings and have decided where they will attend in September. We wish you the parents and our 6th class pupils well in making the best decision for their future.

Chewing Gum

There is **NO** chewing gum allowed in school. We ask you as parents to please ensure that your child(ren) do not bring it into school.

Supervision

The staff wish to reiterate that after school supervision is provided **only** for children who have to wait for the second bus. As such it is not a designated playtime for all children. Please collect your child(ren) promptly at 3pm.



Book Week and World Book Day.

On Thursday March 5th there was great excitement in the Junior Infant room. Everyone embraced the spirit of World Book Day by dressing up as a character from a children's book. Mrs. Keane, Ms. McGourty and Ms. O'Rourke also dressed up and got in role as their favourite characters.

Other activities for Book week consist of D.E.A.R and /or U.S.S.R –drop everything and read or uninterrupted sustained silent reading for short intervals.

Readers Theatre: performance by older pupils for younger pupils.

Buddy Reading has recommenced 2 mornings per week for 15 minutes and will run for a 6 week period. This provides the older children an opportunity to listen to and support younger children reading. There is always a great buzz around the school for that brief amount of time. All children benefit from this programme on many levels.

Guided Reading.

This year we have begun guided reading in Ms Glancy's class. Children read, write and respond to different types of graded books and all pupils develop and enhance their literacy skills by participating in this.

The Book Fair in collaboration with the Parent's Association was held between the 10th and 16th of March. Thank you to all who supported and bought books. A percentage of the money spent will come back to the school and will be used to replenish classroom libraries. A total of €1900 was spent by members of the school community and this will ensure we will receive a large amount back to buy new books. Míle Buíochás daoibh go léir. A special word of thanks to the members of the Parents Association who generously gave their time to sell the books each day.

The author and creative writer, Gerry Boland visited our school on Tuesday March 10th and presented poetry workshops in all classes. Other activities for book week included the commencement of 'Buddy Reading' in all classes and will run for 6 weeks.

Music.

Derek Mahady, the Diocesan organist and choral organiser comes to our school weekly to promote and develop choral voice singing. This will run until the end of April.

In school entertainment.

On Monday February 16th, Fred Carvinio presented an exhilarating show full of magic and scientific fun tricks. A very good show enjoyed by all!



Catholic Schools Week: January 25th - February 1st 2015

This was marked with a prayer service and posters designed by children were displayed.