

Green Schools Initiative

We are in the process of applying for our 7th Green Flag. Our theme “Global Citizenship and Energy” was undertaken in September 2014. A lot of work was carried out by the committee last year under the guidance of Ms Glancy. This year Ms Beirne and Ms McHugh took on with the school body to complete the application and ensure we receive the flag. All classes took on an investigative project on an aspect of global citizenship and how we as an individual impact the world and vice versa. Projects included looking at **climate change, global citizenship, fair trade and trading, interdependence, sustainable development, ethical consumption and production and social justice and inequality**. Ms McHugh and 4 fifth class children attended the 20 year celebration of Fair Trade towns in Ireland on Thursday 3rd March. We spoke to Maria, a banana farmer from the Dominican Republic and heard how the people living there have benefitted from other countries such as Ireland buying fair trade produce. We also saw how local producers trade at the farmers market in Carrick on Shannon each Thursday.

The Circus Show

Members of the Corvenno Family provided live entertainment for the school on January 18th. Aspects of traditional circus acts –juggling, balancing acts, stilt walking etc. was provided for our entertainment and just a nice mixture to keep us intrigued and sitting on the edge of our seats.

Solas Art Exhibition

This ran from the 16th-27th January in the art gallery in Ballinamore. The pictures are returned and are on display in the reception area for the coming year. There are wonderful pictures from children from all classes. Please come and have a look for yourself. This exhibition is running now for 7 years and we can see an improvement in the children’s artwork. Thanks to Ms McHugh, Jim and Christopher for hanging the exhibition.

Clothes Collection

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our clothes collection on January 22nd. €440 was raised for school funds. We will have another one in **May/June** as part of our recycling and global awareness aspects of the green school programme.

School Closure

School closes on Wed, Mar 16th @ 12.30p.m and buses will commence collecting children @ 12p.m. School re-opens on **Monday April 4th**.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

Angela White, Finola McGowan, Olivia McHugh, Nicola Heslin, Micheál Mc Kiernan, Gearóidín Ní Chongaille, Sinéad Beirne, Aoife Kane, Michelle McCorry, Geraldine McWeeney, Mary Scott, Joan Tiernan, and Christina McGourty.

St Brigid's N.S Drumcong Spring Newsletter March 2016



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Dear Parents/Guardians.

Our Easter break is fast approaching as we take time to reflect on the many events alongside the teaching and learning that takes place in our school every day. We also take a look at upcoming events which will take place in the final term.

We acknowledge all the work of our staff members, coaches, the pupils and you the parents. We would like to thank you for your continued support, generosity and co-operation during the last term.

Enrolment 2016-2017

This is underway at present and Mrs McGourty is processing applications for Junior Infants for the next academic year.

Thank you to all parents who have returned enrolment forms. If you have yet to enrol your child please contact Mrs McGourty at the school between 9.30a.m and 2.30p.m. Also if you know of families wishing to enrol their child for next September please ask them to contact the school.

Please ensure that you complete all details especially if your child has any additional needs. This information will be treated with confidentiality and respect. We will forward details of an induction morning for the new infants and an information evening for parents in the final term.

School Self-Evaluation

We are currently working on the area of improving Oral Language Skills throughout the school in Literacy. This is the prerequisite for reading and writing. We are currently drawing up a School Self Evaluation(SSE) Report and from this we will be forming the School Improvement Plan(SIP). The focus of these reports is the area of Assessment.

Change in Policy (after Easter)

In future, we ask that parents/guardians collecting their children before 3 p.m

will go to the office first and **not** the classroom. Please sign a form recording time and date. Late arrivals will also be recorded.

Fundraising.

The children made St Brigid's Day crosses and these were blessed and sold in the community. As always people were very generous. €280.20 was raised and given to Mary McKeon on behalf of the North West Simon Community. Míle buíochas libh go léir.

Bake/Cake Sale

This will be held on **Wednesday March 16th** to help raise funds for the school tour Please give as generous as you can in the form of home baking –cakes biscuits or buns. Children can buy them before 1st break that day as the school will close at 12.30p.m.

Buddy Reading and Book Week

Many events were held in this term to promote reading and encourage children to learn to read and to read to learn. Buddy reading took place from January 12th and ran for 6 weeks up until the midterm break. This was very successful and we can see the fruits of it now as the younger children are so confident reading in front of their older peers during Reader's Theatre.

Book Week ran from February 29th – March 4th. Thanks to Ms McGowan who co-ordinated the following events: a visit from author Gerry Boland who completed a creative writing workshop with each class, Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R) time daily from 1p.m to 1.15p.m, Story Swap-teachers swapped classes and read a story to younger or older children and finally Reader's Theatre –children read a play or story in parts as a group to an audience.

The Scholastic Book Fair also ran from March 1st –March 8th and the set target of €800 was by far exceeded at €2405 and €1400 in book vouchers will be received to replenish class libraries. This is a remarkable achievement and we can only thank you the parents and families for your support. We noticed that there many other items that interested the children coming as part of the book fair. We strongly encourage you and your children to buy books during the book fair.

Athletics

Pat O'Toole from Leitrim Sports Partnership commenced coaching the pupils in athletics since January 21st. Some of our pupils took part in an athletics event held in the Ballinamore Sports Complex on March 1st and March 4th. Thanks to the staff members who accompanied the 47 children who participated in this event.



First Penace

This will be held on Wednesday March 9th at 7p.m in St Brigid's Church. Congratulations to the 13 boys and girls in Ms Beirne's and Ms. Kane's class who will receive this special sacrament.

First Eucharist will be received by these children on Sunday May 29th in St Brigid's church.

Proclamation Day

This will be celebrated on Tuesday March 15th. We will have a guest speaker Fr. Liam Kelly, music, dancing and singing. We were hoping that the children would dress up like children of that time.(this is optional). Children are in the process of writing their version of what they envisage for a New Ireland in the form of a modern Proclamation for peace and harmony and inclusion in today's society.

National Tree Week

This coincided with the assessor from Leitrim County Council Ms Carmel Coll's visit on Wednesday March 2nd 2016. She gave us young seedlings to plant in the school grounds. Mr John McCartin (Caothaoirleach) and Vincent Dywer from Leitrim Co.Co came to plant a tree to mark celebration of national tree week.

Scor na mBunscol

Congratulations to the boys and girls who participated in **Scor na mBunscol** in the May-flower in Drumshanbo.

Spelling Bee

Well done to Sean Fallon who participated in this event in Mohill.

Leitrim Primary Schools' Sports

This event will be held in Manorhamilton end of April/early May. Please encourage your children to attend. Details will follow later.

Road Safety

On January 21st each class received a 30 minute presentation from a member of the road safety authority (R.S.A). This was an interesting topic and we were given facts on the dangers of not wearing seatbelts and not using proper car seats for children up to the age of 11. Awareness and being present to safety codes for all road users was the key message.

