

Green Schools Initiative

We are in the process of applying for our 8th Green Flag. Our theme "Global Citizenship Marine Litter" was undertaken in September 2016. A lot of work was carried out by the committee last year under the guidance of Ms Glancy. She and 3 children attended the Fair Trade launch on Monday Feb 27th in Carrick on Shannon. Members of the Green school committee attended the annual Fair trade parade in Carrick on Shannon on Thursday 9th March. They heard and saw how local producers trade at the farmers market in Carrick on Shannon each Thursday and heard how farmers in Nicaragua get a fair trade price for their produce in order to feed, clothe and educate their children. Sr Nora Burke and Carmel Coll also visited our school on Feb 21st and spoke to children in 2nd/3rd and 6th classes about Fair Trade and how each of us can make a difference by buying one Fair Trade product weekly. We are proud to say that we received our **Fair Trade Membership Certificate** at the annual parade. This is a great achievement and will have to be renewed annually.

Early Finishers/Late Arrivals.

Thank you for your co-operation and adherence to this process. We understand people have to take out children for appointments etc. and our aim is to minimise class disruptions.

The Silver Lining Company Dance/Art/Show

We had a visit from Silver Lining Productions who put on an interactive display of music and children's theatre on Feb 9th. Thank you for your support.

School Closure

School closes on Fri, April 7th @ 12.30p.m and buses will commence collecting children @ 12p.m. School re-opens on **Monday April 24th.**

Solas Art Exhibition

This ran from the 21st-31st January in the art gallery in Ballinamore. The 136 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 8 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

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our clothes collection in October 2016 - over €300 was raised for school funds. We will have a monster clothes collection in May and we ask that everybody make a huge effort to collect bags of worn clothing, footwear and bed linen-**no duvets/pillows please.**

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

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

St Brigid's N.S Drumcong Spring Newsletter March 2017



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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 look at upcoming events which will take place in the final term.

We thank you for your continued support, generosity and co-operation during each term.

Enrolment 2017-2018

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. 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.

Follow-up Inspection

Our inspector Ms Amanda Grant came to visit our school on Thursday January 18th. This process looks at how the recommendations from the WSE-MLL were implemented and how the school is further developing with teaching and learning. One area that we will work on is Internet Safety and the topic of Cyber bullying. We will have 2 workshops on this topic for 3rd and 4th class and the second for 5th and 6th class on Tuesday April 4th 2017. There will be a **workshop for all parents / guardians that evening Tuesday April 4th starting at 7p.m in the G.P room in St Brigid's school.** This will be presented by Ms Paula O'Connor. We invite one parent from each family at least to come and hear this presentation and ask any question relevant to the topic. The internet is a powerful tool and we can all have the knowledge to teach our children how to use it properly - BE Wise, BE Safe and to use Paula's term **"Don't Be Mean Behind Your Screen"**

Staff Meeting

Staff meeting will take place next Wednesday April 5th at 2p.m. Buses will collect children at 1.30p.m.

Fundraising.

The children made St Brigid's Day crosses and these were blessed and sold in the community. As always people were very generous. €380 was raised and given to Mary McKeon on behalf of the North West Simon Community. Míle buíochas libh go léir.

Easter Raffle

We will have our Easter Raffle on Wednesday April 5th. The staff will get the prizes and we ask you to give as generously as possible. All monies raised goes to subsidise buses and purchase extra material for all pupils.

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 mid-term break. This was very successful and we can see the fruits of it now as the younger children are growing in confidence in reading.

Book Week ran from February 27th - March 3rd. Thanks to Ms McGowan who co-ordinated the following events: a visit from author Gerry Boland (March 1st) 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 Feb 28th - March 7th and the set target of €800 was by far exceeded at €2240 and €1344 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 thank Catherine and Áine Beirne, Pamela Redahan and Carmel Keaney for giving their time to sell the books and ensure everyone got their desired books. Míle buíochas libh go léir.

Stay Safe Programme

Each class is learning strategies to build skills of confidence in being safe in all situations. Please look at the booklets and discuss with your children.

Athletics

Pat O'Toole from Leitrim Sports Partnership commences coaching the pupils in athletics from March 28th.

Some of our pupils took part in an athletics event held in the Ballinamore Sports Complex on March 1st and March 8th. Thanks to the staff members who accompanied the children there.

GAA Coaching.

We welcome Shane O'Rourke to our school and thank him for training the children from 2nd - 6th class weekly. This weekly training in GAA skills will continue until June.

The Power Hour

Ms Glancy, with help from other staff members run a literacy initiative to enhance reading, writing and oral language skills with 2nd and 3rd class pupils using the PM reading scheme. This takes place 3 times per week for 6 weeks. A lot of money was invested in this scheme and we encourage you to ask the children about it and read the book sent home each week.

First Penace

This was held on Wednesday March 22nd at 7p.m in St Brigid's Church. Congratulations to the 23 children in 2nd class received this sacrament. Thanks to Ms Glancy and Fr. Tomás and you their parents for preparing them for this occasion.

First Eucharist

The 23 children will receive their First Holy Communion on Sunday May 28th in St Brigid's church @11.30a.m. A choir will be organised and we ask as many children to come and sing on that day.

Supporting Pádraig in Ecuador

This year we are helping raise funds to send to Kilclare native Pádraig McWeeney who is volunteering in Ecuador. He is part of a team, building a classroom in a school in Ecuador. We are very privileged to have a warm, comfortable environment to learn, work and play. Let's all contribute to making a difference in the lives of underprivileged children with Fr. Hughes and Pádraig. Teachers are collecting money in their individual classrooms.

Sports

As part of the Operation Transformation nationwide initiative our whole school took part in 10@10 – we all danced for 10 minutes at 10o'clock on the 10th February. Thanks Mr McKiernan for providing the entertainment on the internet.

Football season is kicking off for the older boys and girls with the Cumann na mBunscol competition. The children were given lists of the fixtures for the coming weeks. Please support and encourage them to play and participate to the best of their ability.

Congratulations to Ella Mae McKeon who qualified for the backstroke at the Connacht Mir Aquatic Centre on Feb 12th. At this she got a personal best and the school came 14th out of 30. She will be swimming for Leitrim in May in the National Aquatic Centre.

Scor na mBunscol

Please support the children who will participate and represent our school in singing, music quiz and Sean Nos dancing in Scor this **Saturday April 1st** in the Mayflower in Drumshanbo.

Spelling Bee Competition

Congratulations to Eileen Maguire who represented our school in the Leitrim heat of this competition in the Landmark Hotel on Wednesday March 1st. She will represent Leitrim in the Connacht heat in May. Well done Eileen! Táimid an bhróidúil asat.

Eucharistic Adoration

In preparation for receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist we had a visit from Ms Antoinette Moynihan on Wednesday March 15th. The children were taught how to meditate and reflect on the Eucharist through Perpetual Adoration. This will take place twice more once in May and in June.

Retreat for the Confirmandi

Thanks to Fr. Tomás for organising a retreat to Knock on Wednesday 18th January in preparation for these children receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. Thanks to their teachers and parents who accompanied them.

Ceremony of Light

This was held in St Brigid's Church on March 2nd in preparation for Confirmation. Bishop Francis Duffy visited each class in our school on Tuesday Feb 28th and spent time with children in 5th and 6th classes discussing what confirmation means. There was time for questions and answers with him and he answered these with ease for the pupils.

Confirmation 2017

Congratulations to the 46 children in 5th and 6th class who received this sacrament on March 12th. Thank you to their teachers Mrs White and Mrs Heslin, to the choir, to Ms McHugh, Mrs McKiernan and Jane Cowley and all other staff members who helped out during the preparation. Finally thank you to you their parents and families, who guide, support and prepared them for this day. We share your pride for all our pupils in whatever they take on.

Before and After School Supervision

Please collect your children **promptly at 3p.m.** Supervision is **only** for children travelling by bus and is **not extra play time** for children being collected by parents/ guardians.

Code of Behaviour

We have noticed that there is a decline in behaviour standards and some pupils disobeying school rules, using bad language and pushing out boundaries of safety. Please talk to your children about following school rules as they are in place **to provide a safe environment** for our school community.

Standardised Tests

Standardised Tests will be administered to pupils during the month of May. Pupils in Junior and Senior Infants will be given screening tests in literacy and numeracy by the class teacher(s) and learning support teachers. All pupils from 1st to 6th classes will be given standardised tests in English, Maths and Spellings and an Irish test will be administered to pupils from 2nd class upwards. It is important that **all pupils are present** when whole class testing takes place. If you know of dates in May when your child(ren) maybe absent for any reason please inform the class teacher.

School Tours

1st and 2nd classes will go to Boyle on Thursday March 30th - Activity 1 – workshop in the woodlands with Shailagh Healy an expert with the Heritage Council of Ireland and Activity 2 – a visit to King House. Coach will leave at 9.30a.m. and will return at 2.45p.m. approx. The cost €15 per child was subsidised by raffle funds.

Creative Dance Workshop

As a follow up to the day in the woodlands Shailagh will visit our school on Friday March 31st and complete a creative dance workshop with the children.

Ulster American Folk Park

3rd/4th and 5th classes will visit the Ulster American Folk Park on Thursday May 25th. The cost is €20 per child. We will remind the children closer to the time. Thank you to families who have paid so promptly.

Write a book/short story project.

This project organised by Carrick Education Centre is underway in all classrooms. Pupils from Junior Infants - 2nd class, write a book. Pupils from 3rd - 6th class, write a short story. More details will follow regarding this in May

