

Cash for Clobber

Our annual clothes collection took place on Wednesday May 21st and this yield €400 for school funds. Thanks to all who donated unwanted clothes.

School Closure

Our school will close on Fri, June 27th at 12.30p.m. Buses will start collecting the children from 12 p.m. We wish you a very enjoyable summer break. We look forward to seeing everybody on September 1st @ 9.20am.

School Shelter

We are presently updating our shelter with a Maths theme to enhance children's enjoyment of Maths and to help relate maths to their environment. Mr McKiernan's 4th & 5th class are carrying out this work.



Work in progress!

We wish you a restful and enjoyable summer. We sincerely thank you for your support throughout the year. We look forward to seeing you all when the school will reopen on Monday September 1st 2014

Le gach dea-ghuí

Angela White, Finola McGowan, Olivia McHugh, Rachel Keane, Nicola Heslin, Fidelma Glancy, Micheál McKiernan, Gearóidín Ní Chongaile Geraldine McWeeney, Olive Murphy, Joan Tiernan and Christina McGourty

St Brigid's N.S Drumcong Summer Newsletter June 2014



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Dear Parents/Guardians.

Summer is fast approaching and it's time to prepare to wrap up the 2013-2014 academic year. School reports, new school year calendar, booklists are complete and new classes are finalised for the upcoming year. We take this opportunity to reflect on all activities and events since April. Finally we take this opportunity to thank you, the parents for your support and cooperation throughout the school year. We wish you a very pleasant and relaxing summer.

Farewell to Sixth Class.

As usual we begin by saying a fond Farewell to our Sixth class who over the last eight years have made a huge contribution to our school. We hope that they will look back on their primary school years with fond memories and take with them all the knowledge and skills and positive attitudes that will help them progress through whatever secondary school they choose to attend.

Slán agus Beannacht to Sam Denn, Michelle Duignan, Daniel Flynn, Chantelle Gilmartin, Kellyann Halstead, Emma Heeran, Francesca Hoare, Sarah Moran, Aidan McCormack, Chloe McGovern, Saoirse McGovern, Isobella McKeown, Sean McNabola, Fionn O'Brien, Sophie O'Hagan, Caoimhe O'Connor, Laura Redican, Lauren Tivnan and Peter Winters. We say farewell to the following families whose children have passed through our school-the Duignan, Gilmartin, Moran, McGovern, Tivnan and Johnston families. At this point we say Bon Voyage to Kai Johnston (2nd class). We extend a warm welcome to Marley Bayram in first class.

We wish to offer our sincere sympathy and support to families or staff members who have lost a loved one throughout the year. We also remember in our thoughts and prayers any members of our school community who are dealing with illness.

We welcome back two of our staff members – Mrs Keane (Junior Infant teacher) and Mrs Heslin (5th and 6th class teacher). We had to say Goodbye and congratulations to Mrs Rowley on the birth of her baby girl. Ms Mulholland is still with us for the remainder of the school year and we wish her well in her next position.

School Self Evaluation (S.S.E)

It is now necessary to report how our school is performing and what our targets are in the area of improving literacy and numeracy. Our chosen area is Numeracy. A summary copy of the School improvement plan and a summary Evaluation Report will be uploaded onto the school website. Encourage use of mathematical language or practising problem solving with your child(ren).

We were given a number of Z cards (a fold-up credit card size) with ideas for helping your child with different areas of the curriculum. They are geared towards the younger children and if you receive one please take time to use them. We value your feedback on them.

Sports

May 4th: Leitrim Primary Track & Field Athletics Competition in Manorhamilton. Congratulations on winning the Gilmartin Cup and obtaining an overall score of 160 points. This was a great sporting achievement for our school.

Congratulations to the boys 9-a-side who defeated Aughavas in the Div 3 Final in a great match on Thursday June 5th in Páirc Seán.

Hard luck to the girls 11-a-side who were defeated by Ballinamore in the Div 1 Final on Tuesday 9th June in Páirc Seán. However you played a terrific game and we are very proud of both teams.

Thanks to the trainers who come and train the children from first class and up in Hurling, Football and Rugby skills. Thanks to Charlie from Leitrim Sports Partnership who in collaboration with the staff has developed an athletics training programme for 4th, 5th and 6th class. The children have completed a 2km run and some have completed a 3km and a 5km run.

24 3rd and 4th class children took part in a blitz in St Mary's Training ground during May. Mr McKiernan accompanied them on the day.

New Junior Infants

An induction morning for the new Junior Infants took place on Thursday June 19th from 9.30a.m.-10.45a.m. This gave them an opportunity for them to meet their new class teacher Mrs Keane and explore their new class environment.

An information evening for their parents /guardians was held on Tuesday June 17th at 7.30p.m. with Mrs Keane. Mrs Keane spoke about the infant Curriculum, the Aistear Programme which is taught in our school and other areas of interest to parents. It is also very important that parents advise class teachers and school of all known health issues or learning issues or concerns you may have regarding your child starting school. All information will be treated with confidentiality.

We advise parents that the new Junior Infants will attend school for the **First week** (September 1st-5th 2014) from 9.20am -12.30pm. From September 8th onwards they will remain in school until 2pm.

Waterways Ireland Celebration

Mrs Rowley and Mrs White accompanied 5th and 6th class to Ballinamore on Friday April 11th where they partook in the 20 year celebrations of the opening of the Shannon Erne Waterway. They had the opportunity to meet the Canadian ambassador on his tour of Leitrim. The school also received a €500 voucher for Easons.

Leitrim Person of the Year

Eleanor Shanley visited our school and performed for the Junior Infants and also talked to the children in the senior room. She will be visiting the school next year as part of the Leitrim Co. Council Music in Residence group.

Leitrim County Enterprise.

We had a visit from 3 boys in Manorhamilton Secondary school who appeared on The Junior Dragons Den and whose idea was invested in by the chief Dragon Mr Gavin Duffy. They invented the 'Squeazy' bottle and presented a workshop to 5th and 6th class. This was a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience in team-building and developing business skills and ideas. Watch this space for the budding entrepreneurs from Drumcong N.S!

Lost Property

As usual we are left with a number of coats, jumpers and personal items. Lost property will be on display in foyer outside Mrs McGourty's office. Please ask your child to check lost property display if items were lost during the year. Any items not claimed by end of school term will be given to charity shop.

Student Council.

Well done to the boys and girls who worked with Ms McGowan and Mr McKiernan during the year. We would like to remind you that this is a forum to discuss issues that affect student's well-being e.g. friendship and anti-bullying or ways to encourage students to help one another. We value your input and we reiterate that certain issues can only be dealt with by staff. The organisation and running of the school is the responsibility of the Board of Management.

Active Schools Day

Weather permitting this will take place on **Tuesday June 24th**.

Please ensure that your child(ren) have runners, shorts, t-shirt and sun cream if weather is hot and extra drinks. The first part of the day is for children in Junior -Second class and the afternoon is for the Senior end 3rd -6th.

Activities are team based and it is an alternative active day as opposed to competitive driven and everyone is included.

W.O.W /R.O.W/C.O.W day

These letters represent different forms of transport we can take to travel to school. Thanks to all the parents and children and staff who walked to school, parked and "strode", cycled, car pooled or ran on Wednesday May 14th.

As always we welcome any input from parents on how we can carry out these events in a safe and fun and educational way so please forward ideas to Ms Glancy for this annual event in mid- May.

In preparation for Bike week June 14th - 22nd the senior students participated in Cycle Training on Thursday May 29th 2014 under the guidance of Brendan Whelan and his companion Darragh. Darragh is a semi- professional cyclist. Both men have great expertise in teaching cycling skills to children.

Floral Pride 2014

Judging for Floral Pride took place on Wednesday June 18th. This year we entered the hanging baskets and vegetable garden planted by Ms McHugh and her students. The maintenance of the beds was carried out by children from different classrooms.

We are very blessed to have such beautiful grounds and over the years Mrs McKiernan built a legacy of native Irish trees and a sanctuary for wildlife. Mrs White and Mrs McKiernan supported the installation of an outdoor classroom and a school pond. We wish to carry on developing the grounds as an educational and fun way to learn about plants and wildlife and meet the objectives of the national curriculum in social, environmental and scientific education (S.E.S.E), maths in the environment and other subjects for all classes. Your support in any way to help us achieve this goal would be appreciated. Thanks to the parents, pupils and staff members who turned up last Saturday and cleaned up the grounds.

Thanks to Barra Mac Thiarnáin for giving up a day to dig the ridges for the vegetables, Amanda and Natalia for cleaning and planting new plants in the school pond, Eamon McCarthy for mowing the front lawns and battling with the rain, Jim Foley for replanting the tree, Cathal and Liam for putting the brackets for the hanging baskets, Sean McGourty for mowing the back field. All of this is much appreciated. Thanks also to the ladies who come and take care of the plants throughout the year – Sabine, Philomena and Geraldine.

The idea of a gardening committee didn't get off the ground last year. We will form one in September. Anyone wishing to help out please forward your names to Mrs McGourty.



Green Schools.

On April 28th we were awarded our 6th Green Flag for the theme of Global Citizenship and on going work on Litter and Waste, Energy Conservation, Water, Transport and Biodiversity. Each flag is awarded after a two year project on a specific topic. Thanks to Ms Glancy who co-ordinated the projects and put together the paperwork. Well done everyone and we look forward to the raising of the 6th Flag. Details on this in next school year

On Tuesday May 27th 2014 Ms Glancy and 3 students collected the flag at an award ceremony in the Fitzwilliam Hotel in Claremorris.

First Holy Communion.

Congratulations to the 18 boys and girls who received this Sacrament on Sunday May 25th 2014. It was a beautiful ceremony and thanks to your families for their support on the day. Thanks to the parents of children in 3rd class who prepared the G.P room and provided goodies for the celebrations afterwards.

Also thank you to Ms McHugh, Jane Cowley and the choir who contributed to this ceremony on the day. Thanks to Fr. Flynn, Ms Glancy, Mrs White and all the staff members who helped out in any way.

School Tour May 28th

The children from 3rd to 6th class went to the National Museum on Kildare St and spent an hour and a half there. Next was the Phoenix Park. They had lunch al fresco and continued to Dublin Zoo. We were blessed with the weather and all returned home safe and sound having had a great time. Dublin Zoo has an interesting website where you can see the elephants, penguins, wolves and African Safari live each day - www.dublinzoo.ie

The Junior – Second class children were treated to a very entertaining puppet show on May 15th which came to the school. This dealt with the issue of bullying in a very sensitive yet funny and informative way.

The cost of both of these events were subsidised by monies raised (€560) by the cake sale on May 2nd. We express our gratitude to everyone who baked and bought cakes, buns and goodies. We noticed that this is a great way to teach children the value of handling money and change. Well done to 5th and 6th class who helped out and ensured that everyone got a chance to buy something.

Policies and Planning

Our school policies are available on our school website and are updated as necessary in line with Department of Education and Skills circulars and directives.

As mentioned a copy of the school calendar was forwarded to each family for the 2014-2015 academic year. Please take note of the changes to the standardised year especially for mid-term and reopening after Christmas.

School reports and your child's teachers name for the coming year ahead are posted to you. Please note small changes in staffing arrangements.

Please return booklists with books required ticked on /before June 26th. No monies will be collected until first week in September. If booklists are not returned the teachers cannot order the books and it will be the responsibility of the parent to buy the books themselves for September.

