

Spring 2015 Newsletter



Our Lady of the Wayside National School

First Penance

On Thursday 5th March, 2nd class made their First Penance. Fr. Andrew, Fr. Gerry, the class teachers and all the parents were there to support the children. A lot of preparation was involved for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The children had learned all their prayers, sang beautiful hymns and explored the capacity to forgive and be forgiven. Well done 2nd class.

Confirmation

Confirmation for 6th Class was held on Friday 27th February in St. Mary's Church, Sandyford celebrated by Very Rev. Kieran McDermott and Fr. Andrew.

The Service of Light was held on Wednesday 4th February in St. Mary's Church, Sandyford.



Safety Issues

In the interests of safety, you are again reminded not to park on the yellow markings outside the school or on the footpath at the main road blocking the path for pedestrians with buggies.

Children should enter and leave the school by the school **pedestrian gate** not by the staff car park gate. Only children accompanied by an adult may walk through the Church grounds.

Parking

Parking in front of the school remains a problem. Please, please, please do not park in front of the school when dropping or collecting your child. Most parents have been very co-operative in this respect but this reminder is particularly to those who continue to disregard our requests.

Arriving & Leaving School

School officially opens at 8.50 am. Children may arrive from 8.40.

Children are only supervised from 8.40am, so they should enter school grounds no earlier than 8.40am. On wet days, children enter the hall through the double doors from the yard and line up with their class, where they will be supervised from 8.40am. Due to lack of space, only parents of infants may remain on in the Hall. Children should not enter by the front door.

Please do not bring dogs into the school grounds.

In the interest of your child's safety, please remember that the children must be fully supervised as they leave the school grounds.

Gymnastics

Neil Gissane of NRG returned this year to give 6 sessions of Gymnastics per class. These commenced on February 12th. Thank you to the Development Fund for funding this great activity.

Jubilee Celebrations

Celebrations are getting under way in Our Lady of the Wayside N.S. to celebrate our Golden Jubilee.

We intend having an initiative every month for the children to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

In January we were entertained by the boyband "Taken". This was really exciting for all and a great surprise. Photos were taken and autographs collected!

In February we had a visit from the Garda Band. What an experience! This was a tremendous success. The children sang and clapped along and thoroughly enjoyed the concert. We also found some budding percussionists amongst the children!

This month we had our Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations and our annual parade in the school yard on Friday the 13th.

There are other treats in store and these will be revealed later.....

Book rental scheme

We will continue to roll out the Book Rental Scheme in our school. Further details will follow as to what subjects will be included for the academic year 2015/2016.



Please watch out for future events as the year progresses.



6th Class are taking part in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme 2015. We are currently in the middle of our project, working very hard. We had to present product ideas to a panel of dragons. This required plenty of research and teamwork. We now have to turn one of our ideas into reality and sell as many as we can! We have been very lucky with all the advice that we have received. Local members of the business community and entrepreneurs have come to our class to tell us their story. We are really enjoying the project so far!



Ms Gannon's fifth class presented their project at the BT Young Scientist on Thursday January 8th. Their project was 'Does Age or Sex Influence Your Reflexes? Boys versus Girls! Old versus Young!' They tested 244 people including junior infants, second class, fifth class and sixth class. They also tested parents, grandparents, teachers and SNAs. They found that boys scored better on four of the six tests, with girls only scoring higher on two tests. Adults scored best on four of the six tests. Parents scored best on two of the tests, teachers and SNAs scored best on one test each and fifth and sixth class scored best on the remaining tests. Junior infants scored lowest on five of the six tests, with grandparents scoring lowest on one test. They found that the older and younger participants tested scored lowest. They had an amazing day and the judges were really impressed with their project stating: 'This was absolutely fantastic project in all aspects – clear question/hypothesis, well executed experiments, clear data analysis and interesting results...The children were very enthusiastic and it was clear that they took ownership of the project. Great job well done to all!'



Award of Science and Maths Excellence 2015:

Ms. Gannon's fifth class have applied for an Award of Science and Maths Excellence. They entered the BT Young Scientist this year and fifth and sixth class entered Intel's Mini Scientist. They have been busy working on science and maths activities such as Design a Boat, Amazing Triangles and Building Bridges. Our buddies in Ms. Galavan's class worked on Amazing Triangles with us. Ms. Jones' first class worked with us on designing a boat. Engineers from Aecom came in during Engineers Week and spoke to our class and we worked on designing a bridge.



Stepaside St. Patrick's Day Parade

Representatives from all classes took part in the second annual Stepside St. Patrick's Day Parade. A great time was had by all. A huge thank you to parent Michael Fleming (organiser) on a job very well done and Dale McCarthy (Extrabrite signs) on our fab banner!



Andy Gibbons Cup

Some of our children participated in the Andy Gibbons Hurling Blitz and proudly arrived home with the Andy Gibbons Plate. A great time was had by all. Thanks to all the teachers who helped with the organisation of the event.



Swimming

We are delighted to offer swimming to classes from 1st – 6th class inclusive. This year is our first year to enjoy the facilities at DLR Loughlinstown Swimming Pool. So far classes from 2nd – 6th class have completed their swimming terms. At present, both 1st classes are attending every Wednesday.

Cycling

Sixth class have been busy doing cycling classes for six weeks on Wednesdays. They learnt how to make safe turns, cycle safely and sensibly on the road. These classes are run by 'Cycle Safety' in conjunction with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown C.C. and are funded by the Development Fund.

Green School Update

This year we are working towards getting our Green Flag for saving water. The Green School Committee has been working together to identify areas where we can work harder to conserve water in our school. Some tips they have come up with will be helpful for you to use at home too. These include:

- Only filling up the kettle as much as you need.
- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.
- Fill the dishwasher and washing machine fully before turning it on.
- Only turn the shower on when you are ready to get in it.
- Collect rain water and use it to water your flowers.
- Only water flowers at dusk.

We hope these tips are useful to you and we thank you for your support in helping us get our 3rd Green Flag.

The Green School Committee.



Our Parade



Junior Infants

RANG A HAON PERFORMING THEIR SONG 'GERONIMO' AS GAEILGE



6th Class:

Traditional Music



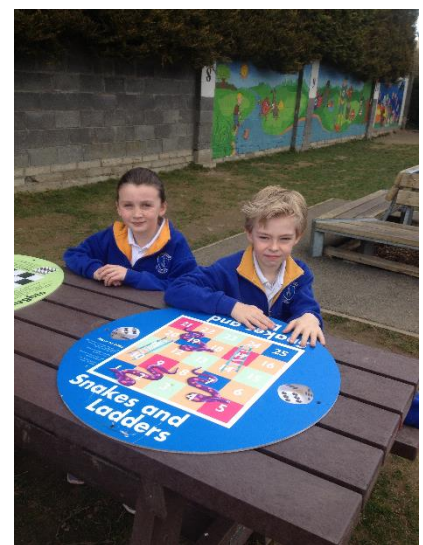
Hockey

"The girls from 4th, 5th and 6th class have had a great hockey season! Thanks to their commitment and determination, braving many a bitter Wednesday afternoon in Three Rock Rovers, they have really developed their skills. The benefits of this dedication have also been reflected in the success of our league team this year who made it to the semi-finals - congratulations! Thank you to all the parents for your support this year and to Richie, Ms. Carson and Ms. O' Doherty for all their help".



Student Council:

The Student Council have been working hard this term representing their classmates. They meet on the last Friday of every month. New benches have been purchased for the yard. Each senior class from 3rd to 6th will have their own picnic bench with two games for them to play. They will be chess/draughts and one other game which was selected by the student council. Lots more fun for yard time!



Camogie

Camogie has started for girls in our school on a Tuesday after school.



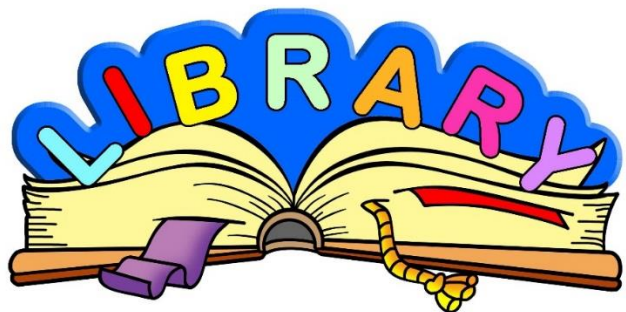
Retirement

Mrs. Maureen Duckenfield will be leaving us at Easter. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Duckenfield for her committed service to the school over the years and to convey our best wishes to her for the future.



Library Revamp

Over the mid-term break our Library had a big revamp. Please see photographs below of how fantastic it looks. A big thank you to the Development Fund who funded this work.



3rd Class Visiting Our Buddies in Junior Infants at the South Pole

