

June 2016 Newsletter

Our Lady of the Wayside National School

Message from the Principal

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Summer and a well-earned rest. The boys and girls have worked really hard this year and deserve a good break.

We have a very hard working and dedicated staff. I wish to thank them for all the fantastic work they do – over and above the call of duty! I wish Ms. Dervan well in her departure to the West and also best wishes to Ms. Galvin who will be taking up a new permanent position elsewhere. Both have contributed greatly to our school during their brief times with us and will be missed. Welcome to Ms. Gibson who is joining our permanent staff. Congratulations to Ms. Cunningham and Ms. O Doherty who were married during the year and best wishes to MS. Finnegan who will be married during the Summer.

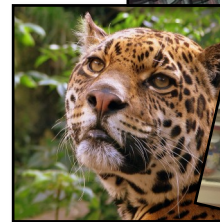
What about our SNAs? They contribute greatly to the school and play a very full and caring role in the everyday events of school life. They deserve our appreciation and gratitude.

Where would we be without Helen? – the face of the school – a gem – constantly working tirelessly for everyone. We would be lost without her! Thank you, Helen.

A lot has happened this year and we have had many successes – curricular, sporting, environmental, and Pastoral.

Curricular:

- Maths Week, Science Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge.
- Participation in the Primary Science Fair and Intel Mini Scientist.
- Participation in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme and production of a recipe book.
- Write – a – Book Project
- Award of Excellence for Science and Maths.
- Digital Award of Excellence for Schools.



Message from the Principal Continued...

Sports:

- GAA, Hurling, Camogie, Hockey, Soccer, Athletics, Swimming.
- Workshops in Sean Nós Dancing, Golf and Tag Rugby.
- Open Air Céilí for every child in the school.
- Foundation of Our Be Active Club.
- Camogie Blitz, Hurling, Blitz, Football Blitz.
- **Acquisition of Active Flag**

Environmental:

- Gardening and Rain Garden Workshops.
- Talks and visits from The Zoo, The Gardaí, the fire service, optician, dentist, engineer, road safety.
- Participation in Food Dudes Scheme.
- Participation in Incredible Edibles Programme.
- We hatched chickens and had butterfly rearing.
- **Acquisition of third Green Flag.**

Pastoral:

- Goal Jersey Day
- Skipathon for Down Syndrome
- Drop Everything and Dance Day for the Hope Foundation
- First Class song for the Year of Mercy - on the parish website!
- Participation in the local St. Patrick's Day parade.
- Christmas Plays
- First Communions and Confirmation

Historically it was a big year for everyone.

- We received our National Flag and Proclamation
- We participated in Proclamation Day
- We made or TV appearance with our Running around the Rising project
- Class proclamations were written.
- Flash mob in Dundrum Town Centre for performance of 1916 song.

It really was an action packed year and so I must thank you, our wonderful parents. We really appreciate all the support you give us throughout the year and we thank you for entrusting your children to us.

Thank you to the Parents' Association who lend so much support to the school and staff, particularly on all the important events. Thank you to our BOM. They work tirelessly on our behalf and, through the Development Fund, enable us to provide additional opportunities for the children. They really ensure that the children can have the best of everything.

Well done everyone! It has been a very successful year and I wish you all a pleasant break. Thank you so much for your support and encouragement during the year.

Ar nearth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine.
Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

Is mise le meas,
Brenda Carson.



School Calendar 2016 -2017

The 2016-2017 school year will commence on Wed. 31st August. The 2016-2017 school calendar with details of the holidays and mid-term breaks is available on our website with copies available from the office.

www.ourladyofthewaysidens.ie

Parents are asked to refer to the calendar when booking holidays for the coming year to avoid taking children out of school during term-time.

Lost Property

Lost property can be found in the school office. To avoid losing items of clothing please remember to label your children's belongings.

Green Schools Committee

The Green School Committee are delighted to announce that they have recently been awarded their 3rd Green Flag for water conservation. 3 members of the committee attended an awards ceremony in The Helix in DCU on the 26th of May where they were treated to lunch and were presented with the latest flag. I would like to say a big thank you to all the committee members for their hard work and dedication this year.

Ms. O'Doherty

Summer holidays

Last day of School: Thursday 30th June - all classes go home at 12 noon.



School Building and Development Fund Update

Thank you!

Sincere thanks to all the families in our school who continue to support, so generously, the School Building and Development Fund.

The fund continues to meet the deficit between the running costs of the school and the grants received by the Department of Education and Skills. Without your support we would be faced with a constant need to run fundraising events throughout the school year.

This school year the fund also met the cost of the 6 weeks of Sean N6s dancing and the fun golf sessions which were thoroughly enjoyed by all the children. The cost of a number of trips related to the 1916 celebrations were also subsidised by the fund. The school continues to invest in classroom resources to improve the children's opportunity to learn.

This summer we will continue our programme of maintaining our school building with painting and repair work.

Our ICT team are reviewing our technology requirements for the coming years and a plan is being prepared to ensure we are giving our children every opportunity to be exposed to the best learning technology. We will be investing funds in both hardware and software improvements in the coming school year.

Please remember that in our school there is absolutely no other fundraising of any kind for these school facilities during the year.

Please support our school by making a donation to our School Building and Development Fund!



Active Flag

This year we've been working towards achieving our Active Flag. We have introduced many active initiatives throughout the year. These include using active breaks during work time, using GoNoodle and having active yard time, where we play with sports equipment and our Buddies too. We have done a lot more also, including an after school BeActive ASAP programme, where our parents were also involved. For our Active Week in April, we took part in a skipathon called Skip for *SKIP* in connection with The Down Syndrome Centre in Sandyford. As a school we raised nearly €1,300 for the Centre.



We recently had our Active School evaluation. We are delighted to announce that we were successful.

We achieved our Active Flag!



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and guardians for supporting the introduction of Active Homework. We hope you too are seeing the benefits for your children.



Be Active ASAP

From January 2016, we introduced a fantastic initiative run by the Department of Health and the HSE. This afterschool club is for first and second class children only. It's run alongside parent volunteers and follows the Strands from the Physical Education Curriculum. The aim of the club is to introduce young children to skills and a wide range of physical activities.

The involvement of parents ensures that the positive, enthusiastic and fun messages and

attitudes about being active are being fostered by the children. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who volunteered their time this year. Without your help, this club couldn't run. Keep an eye out for next year's sign-up sheets!

If your child will be in First or Second Class next year, and you think you will be available to volunteer, please contact the office regarding getting your Garda Vetting done over the summer.

Camogie Blitz

On the 16th of June, our camogie players went to Kilmacud Crokes GAA Club to participate in the camogie blitz there. We had a junior and a senior team. Both our teams did very well on the day, winning most of their matches.

Our junior team came second over all in their division and won medals.

A big thanks to all the girls who participated in camogie this year! Look forward to seeing the same faces and some new ones next year.

A special thank you to our three 6th class girls who have been brilliant for us the last two years! You will be missed!



Our Lady of the Wayside NS in Santry

On the 26th of May, our athletics teams went to Santry Stadium. We had eight teams participating in the relays and then eight sprinters. The U-10 boys and girls did extremely well considering it was many of their first times in Santry.



Daragh Khaul Fennell won a gold medal in the sprint in his U-12 category. Our U-11 girls relay team won gold and brought the cup back to Our Lady of the Wayside. Our U-13 girls won bronze medals in their relay too.

It was a great day out and well done to all the children involved! They worked very hard training at lunchtimes and were very dedicated! Look forward to going back next year!



Our Lady of the Wayside NS in Santry



Incredible Edibles



First Class took part in Agri Aware's Incredible Edible project. The project involved planting potatoes, turnips, lettuce and strawberries. We also researched about Irish fruit and vegetables. The children, along with their parents, completed a number of tasks at home. The tasks included, shopping for Irish fruit and vegetables, identifying the Bord Bia quality assurance mark on Irish products and finally preparing a meal which included Irish fruit or vegetables.

We started the project in March. It involved a lot of parental support and expertise. Some parents volunteered to help us prepare our beds for planting and to maintain the beds throughout the growing process. We will be harvesting the lettuce plants before the end of term, however, the rest of the plants will be harvested in September.

This project has been an outstanding learning experience for the children. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the parents who gave up their free time and joined in with us. Also to the parents, who helped their children complete their Home Tasks. We have submitted our project for judging and are eagerly anticipating the results.



Parents helping to prepare beds for planting



Visit by Rod Smith

Rod Smith Author of books for children visited the two second classes on Thursday 16th June 2016.

He helped us write a story in the class and told us how he writes his stories including:

“Get out and play ...Football”

“Get out and playGAA”

He also wrote some books for children about the heroes of 1916.

We look forward to his new book about Michael Collins next year .

Ms. Burns 2nd class & Ms.O’Dohertys 2nd class



Tin Whistle

Third Class enjoying tin whistle lessons with Ms. Dervan.



Passport project day

Our class decided on Mexico as our country after voting over a few other options like Japan and the USA. I really enjoyed researching Mexico because I learnt loads of different things about Mexico.

My group was sport and I made quesadillas. Our game was you had to see how many times you could punch a pillow in ten seconds and the record was forty-five times.

Another game I saw which I thought was really good was a blind taste test and someone also had jigsaw puzzles. It was a really fun day because we got to visit other classes in their countries as well which was really good.



Sports day 2016

On Thursday June 9th, Sports day was held.

6th class helped by organising classes, running with children and supporting their teams.

We also put in our Junior Entrepreneur Programme profit that we earned to go towards a bouncy castle.

The day was very exciting and we participated in everything. 6th class participated in a sprint, egg and spoon race and the relay.

There was also the best dressed team and the blue team won that.

When the relay was done they announced the winners but two teams had drawn so they had to do a tie breaker.

In the end the White team were awarded with victory and they were given their medals at our last assembly.

By Emily Greene



Tayto Park

This year sixth class participated in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. As a reward for taking part in the project the organisers gave a free day in Tayto Park. Earlier in the day we were presented with a flag and a plaque which is now on the wall outside Helen's office. We got a wrist band at the front gate which gave us access to all the rides for the day. We all got in groups of six and were allowed to walk around the park freely.

We had great fun in Tayto Park and really enjoyed taking part in the project.

All the money we raised selling our cookbook was spent by purchasing a bouncy castle for sports day and getting a plaque for the school from our class.

By Leah Fleming and Jennifer Boland



Board of Management News

The Board of Management has been meeting once a month during term time and 2016 thus far has been a very busy year.

The Board continues to deal with the strategic matters which continually arise. For example, we are actively reviewing Anti-Bullying, Health & Safety and Critical Incident policies together with the other School policies which are published via our Website.

We are overseeing the introduction of the new Garda vetting process which is mandatory for all of those who have contact with the children. It is essential for us to have parents who are Garda vetted in order for them to continue to help with the many activities to which they already contribute. If parents are not Garda vetted they will not be able to undertake these things. If you haven't put your name forward yet we would ask you to seriously consider doing this.

The School is very privileged to be served by a wonderful team of teachers, learning support and special needs staff. The School has achieved a number of awards during 2016 to include the Active Flag and the recent Digital Schools of Distinction Award and these (and other) achievements are not to be taken for granted. They could not have been achieved without the personal dedication and commitment of our teaching staff who give unstintingly of their professional and personal time in the interests of the children and our School.

There are many “unsung heroes” on our teaching staff and this Board is proud to work with such a successful team and we are committed to supporting them in every way.



Colman Curran

Chairperson

June 2016