

# April 2016 Newsletter

Our Lady of the Wayside National School

## Message from the Principal

Here we are at the end of a second term, and how the time has flown and what a busy time it has been!

I wish to thank all the staff for their hard work and dedication – and not just for this term alone. There has been great work done. Well done!

I also want to thank, you, our parents, for your support, and most importantly, our students, for their enthusiasm and co-operation in all they do. We have had a great term and a lot has happened since Christmas. We have had themed days and we have had visits from the zoo and the dentist just to name a couple. We have had the Junior Entrepreneur programme and the Primary Science Fair. We had workshops on the Rain Garden Project.

We have achieved our Third Green Flag (our water flag) and that is thanks to the Green Schools committee for all their work.

Following our Maths and Science weeks in the first term we have just had our Seachtain na Gaeilge. Apart from the ceol, poetry and seanfhocail we worked on in class we have had Tráth na gCeist and a visit from the Banna Ceoil from the local Taobh na coille school. This was a great treat for our children – to see and hear our native music played by children of their own age and some of our children from Mr. Kenna's music group joined them for a few of the pieces.

The highlight of our Seachtain na Gaeilge was our outdoor Céilí where the

children were able to demonstrate what they have been learning in their Sean Nós dancing classes since January, courtesy of the School Building and Development Fund and in the very capable hands (and feet!) of Mr. Pat O'Dea. What a talented man and what great fun was had by all!

Since Christmas our Active Team has been working hard with their Be Active Club in the hopes of achieving our Active Flag, and thank you to the parents who have also become involved in this. The Active Team has linked their activities with the 2016 celebrations and are responsible for inviting the film crew from RTE who were here on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March to film their activities. Well done and thank you!

Proclamation Day will be a day to be remembered. Thank you to the History Team for all their work towards this special event. Well done to the boys and girls who entered projects in competitions and especially to the prize winners.

Thank you to the teachers who composed their song and to the classes who performed it for us.

Our School Parade takes place on Wednesday morning as has become the custom and we invite you to watch this with us. There will also be a representation from the school at the Stepside Community Parade on St. Patrick's Day. Please look out for our banners and join our Active Themed group.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Holy Easter.

Kind regards,

Brenda Carson  
(Principal)



## 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. In the interest of your child's safety please remember that the children should be supervised as they leave the school 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.

Unfortunately there were problems with parking on our Céilí day and a number of complaints were made. We urge you not to park illegally in the immediate vicinity of the school when attending a school event. This is very embarrassing to us. Please facilitate us in this matter as it is unfair to our local neighbours.



## Board of Management News

The Board of Management is up and running and it meets once a month during term time. The new Board has recently met with the teaching staff in an informal setting since teamwork in the context of the smooth operation of the School is essential.

In a general sense, the Board is busy with matters such as the maintenance of the School property, its management, finances and the review of our various policies such as Health & Safety, Admissions etc. The School's Website is being updated to reflect the most current revisions of these policies and parents are encouraged to read them.

In addition, the Board has been reviewing the long term needs of the School in view of the expansion and development which is taking place in Kilternan, and matters such as traffic management outside the School are constantly being monitored in the interests of the safety of the children.

Looking forward to working in the best interests for you and your children.

Yours,

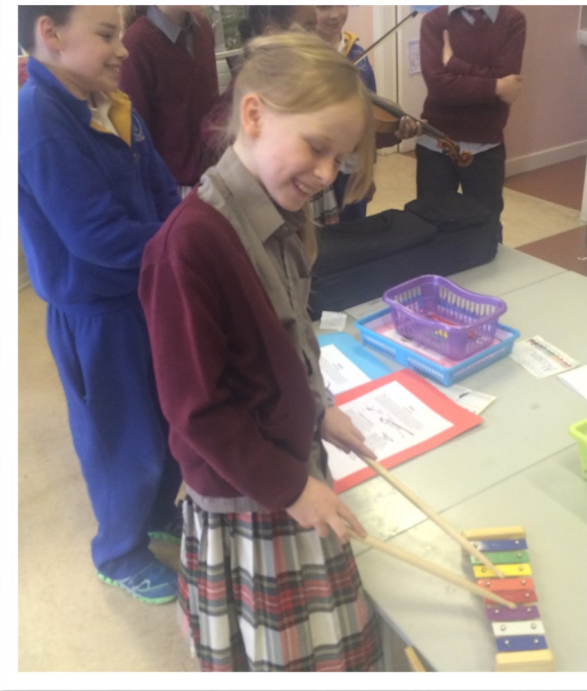
Colman Curran (Chairperson)

## Confirmation

Confirmation for 6<sup>th</sup> Class was celebrated on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March in St. Mary's Church, Sandyford, by Very Rev. Mgr. Lorcan O'Brien and Fr. Andrew. Fr. Gerry conducted the Service of Light on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.



Thank you to the boys and girls from 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class who volunteered to sing and who sang so well on both occasions.



## Musical Instruments:

For Seachtain na Gaeilge, the children in all the classes are learning about different Irish traditional instruments. We were very lucky to have a banna ceoil visit our school from Taobh na Coille to perform for us. There were a lot of children playing a variety of instruments including the accordion, the uilleann pipes, the banjo, the harp, the bodhrán, the concertina, the tin-whistle, the flute and the fiddle.

Their performance was very enjoyable. The children in Our Lady of the Wayside were also able to learn about the different instruments and play them during the week. These were set up in one classroom and each class took turns to visit Ms. Dervan's classroom and try the instruments. The children tried to play the concertina, the accordion, the banjo, the bodhrán, the fiddle, the tin-whistle and a variety of percussion instruments. Below are some pictures of the instruments as well as some children playing the instruments.



**Sean Nós Dancing:**

Mr. Pat O’Dea has been giving Sean Nós dancing classes to all the children in the school. This has been funded from the School Building and Development fund. This venture has been a great success and the children have thoroughly enjoyed it. An open air Céilí was held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March where every single child in the school had an opportunity to dance.

Pat who did the Sean Nós dancing in our school is doing set dancing classes every Wednesday night in Belarmine Community Hall from 8.30 -10.00 only €7 per lesson.

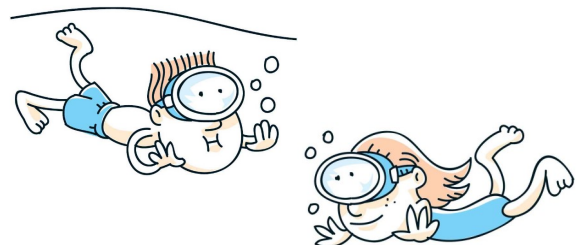
Beginners are more than welcome, it will not be on Wed the 16th March but every Wed after that.



# SPORT IN OUR SCHOOL

**Cycling**

Sixth class has completed a six week course of cycling run by “Cycle Safety” in conjunction with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and funded by the school building and development fund.

**Swimming**

We are delighted to offer swimming classes from 1<sup>st</sup> - 6th classes inclusive. These classes take place on Wednesdays at DLR Loughlinstown Swimming Pool. So far this year classes from sixth to second have attended.



The school is working towards its Active Flag, which we hope to apply for next term.

This term has been very busy and the Active School Committee have showed great commitment and enthusiasm in planning, organising and running many events.

A new after-school club called *BeActive* was set up for the children in first and second class. The aim of the new club is to introduce children to many different sporting skills and to promote a fun attitude to sport. The club is run by volunteers. We are very lucky to have dedicated teachers and parents who work together to plan and run the club.

We are very grateful for the parental support, as without it this club couldn't run. Children, and adults alike, have great fun at *BeActive* every week and everyone is looking forward to seeing what skills they can learn next term.

### Active Yard

Our Active Yard has been running for the last few weeks. Each day, the classes get a different piece of equipment to play with during lunch time. The equipment we are using at the moment includes skipping ropes, basketballs, soft balls, beanbags and targets and hula hoops.

We will be introducing new equipment after Easter. Each class has a Cara Clóis day once a week. On this day, five children from the Big Buddies' class go into their Little Buddies' yard to play with them. The children are really enjoying having this extra time with their buddies.

# Active Flag

## Drop Everything and Dance Day

We held a Drop Everything and Dance Day recently to raise money for the charity, the Hope Foundation. This was a day where music was played at random times during the day from the intercom and all the students had to drop everything and dance.

Also, each class had a time slot in the hall where they had a Drop everything and Dance Disco. The children loved this and they left the hall very red and sweaty! At the end of the day the whole school gathered in the playground where we had a school Drop Everything and Dance Disco (in the rain!!).

The feeling of fun and enjoyment that was experienced by the students on this day will last a long time in their memories. Every child brought in €2 and donated it. The Hope Foundation is a charity to help people who are poor in India. We donated over €700 to this foundation from everyone bringing in €2.



The Active School Committee has worked extremely hard on setting up Active Yard. They pick up the equipment and drop it back each day. They also monitor how it is being used in the yard and have lots of game ideas for anyone who is stuck for what to play.



### Obstacle Course

2016 has been a busy year so far with all of our commemorations for the 1916 anniversary. As an Active School Committee, we decided that the week of the holidays would be a great excuse to link History, Gaeilge and PE together. So we are holding a 1916 Obstacle Course on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March.

We are lucky that RTE News 2day came to film our obstacle course too!! Each class was given the task of constructing a building from the 1916 Rising to use on our obstacle route. At each building, there was a different activity, such as, shooting goals, balancing across a bench and making our way through hula hoops.

We were able to speak a little Gaeilge as the obstacle course was going on too. Our 6<sup>th</sup> class has been great in helping us to organise the stations and they were there to guide the different classes through.



# Active Flag

### GoNoodle Competition

In February, we started our Go Noodle Competition. Go Noodle is a website that has lots of videos of different brain breaks, including Zumba, Fitness, Yoga and Mind Exercises.



Every class in the school has their own account. The minutes are recorded on the website and when a class does a certain number of minutes, they are able to change or grow their monster. There are monsters springing up on every classroom door! Our Active Committee members will be checking the minutes at the end of each week and then recording progress on our Go Noodle Race Track in the hall.

We gave out three prizes for February because there was a huge effort made. The winning classes got fifteen minutes of extra yard time!



## Creative in the Spirit Art:

First class have been very creative this term. We submitted an entry to the Creative in the Spirit Art competition. We changed the lyrics to Hozier's song 'Take me to the Church' to reflect our understanding of Mercy in Action. We recorded our song and sent the submission to the Parish Office. We are waiting eagerly for the results of the competition.

We performed our song at our Mercy assembly in front of the whole school as well.

Alfie and Harry summed up our learning about mercy

Alfie "I didn't know what mercy was before we wrote our song. Now I know its love, kindness and forgiveness."

Harry "Mercy means - love, forgiveness and respect to one and all."



## Titanic Day 05th February

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of February we had Titanic Day. We dressed up as First, Second and Third Class passengers. We had our own names. Here are some; Meganda, Eliza, Elizabeth, Scottish Bob and Ellie. We wrote diary's and made icebergs. Ms. O'Doherty's class came to do a quiz. We coloured pictures of the Titanic.





## Titanic Day 05th February



Jessica and Daisy

We did a project on The Titanic and our teacher Ms.O'Doherty organised a Titanic Day for fun on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of February. We had a table quiz, we did pointalism art, we introduced our characters and we made boats out of clay and we tested how many marshmallows they could hold before they sank. It was a great day and we had lots of fun.

By Caoimhe Carney, Gracie Henry, Joseph Quigley and Matthew Watson.



Frankie, Daniel, Tara and Megan



### Visit from the Dentist

On Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> of March a Dentist came to talk to us about teeth. She told us to eat fruits, veggies and only one sweet on Friday. She asked us to come up with things we should and shouldn't eat for breakfast.

We shouldn't have coco pops and we should have porridge. She told us what a dentist does and what a dentist's surgery looks like. She told us to brush our teeth in circles and twice a day. Then she gave us a sticker, a fun sheet and some toothpaste.



## The Maori People of New Zealand

Report by Chloe-Ann O'Connor and Max Keegan

The Maori were the first to live on the islands of New Zealand. They arrived on the islands about 1,200 years ago. Their name means "ordinary people".

The earliest are sometimes called the Moa hunters. Their main source of food was the moa—a huge flightless bird that is now extinct. After the Moas were gone, the Maori ate smaller birds. They also caught fish and grew crops for food.

The Maori were skilled artists they carved wooden war canoes big enough to hold 100 people. They also excelled in weaving.

According to Maori history, the Maori sailed to New Zealand from a tropical island called Hawaiki. This history says that a "Great Fleet" of canoes arrived in New Zealand in the 1300s. But experts believe that Hawaiki was actually Tahiti.



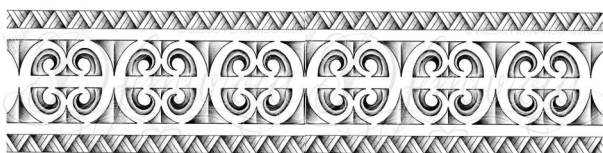
## New Zealand and the Maori people

What I learned about Maori culture?

Report by Mia Kahl Brett

The Maori culture is rich in tradition and legend, and forms an integral part of New Zealand society. Jonah Lomu was the most famous rugby player and died last November 18<sup>th</sup> 2015. He died because he got sick. The traditional Maori welcome is called a powhiri, this involves a hongi which is greeting that involves pressing noses as opposed to a kiss.

Haka are dances with loud chanting, strong hand movements, foot stamping and thigh slapping. Performers may incorporate traditional weapons, such as taiaha (spear-like weapons) and patu (clubs) into their Haka. The all blacks rugby team famously perform their Haka before every game, and is likely you will see this very same Haka if you attend a cultural performance.



## Zoo Animals

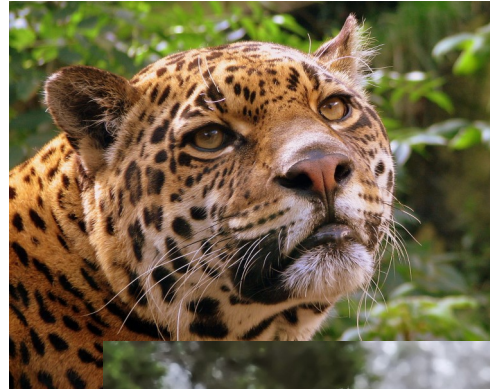
In February a man from Dublin Zoo came in to talk about the zoo animals. First he talked about big cats and endangered animals. He then talked about the elephant. He told us about his feet and teeth. He told us that when an elephant walks it does not make a sound.

He was talking about monkeys. After that, he told us about giraffes and their long necks. After that, he showed us a slideshow. The slideshow was about 10 minutes long. It was long because there were some mini videos in it.

After the slideshow we got to touch animal skin and other things like a turtle shell and an elephant's foot. We got to touch big cat skins. We got to touch a panther's skin, a leopard skin and a tiger skin. It was really cool touching all the animal skins and seeing the others things on display.

He told us loads of facts we did not know. It was amazing seeing the photos and video of the animals. It was very cool and we had a great experience. We are very happy that he came and it was very fun.

By Rebecca and Sadhbh from Ms Galavan 3<sup>rd</sup> class.



## 4th Class

### Our Write-a-Book

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2015 we started our Write a book. First we had to brainstorm our story. After that we had to write our story out roughly. After we got our stories corrected, we wrote our stories out again.

It was really enjoyable drawing the covers for our stories. The final day to finish our Write-a-books was the 4<sup>th</sup> February. We really enjoyed doing the Write-a-books. We are still waiting for someone to reveal the winner.

By Emma, Laura, Tara, Maria Rose & Ruby



## Primary Science Fair



On Saturday January 9th Ms. Gannon's fifth class presented their project 'Is memory affected by age or gender?' at the BT Young Scientist in the RDS. We tested 181 participants over several weeks. There were 102 females and 79 males tested. We tested the junior infant class, two second classes and sixth class in our school. Teachers and SNAs were also tested in school. At home we tested parents and grandparents.

We found that age did affect memory. The youngest people tested, Junior Infants, scored lowest on all three tests. The second youngest people tested scored lowest on one of the three tests and third lowest on the other two. Grandparents scored fifth on two of the tests and third on the card matching game. Parents scored highest on two of the three tests, while Special Needs Assistants scored highest on the other test. So overall the youngest people tested scored lowest followed by the eldest.

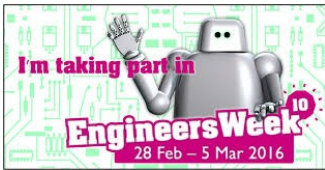


We found that gender does play a role in memory. Female participants scored highest overall on all three tests. Female teachers scored highest on the Card Matching Game, while male teachers scored lowest on this. The judge was very impressed with our project and awarded us a trophy. The judge said "This was an amazing project. The children had a very clear question and methods to test them. I very much enjoyed taking the tests with them and using my data to discuss how I compared with

## Engineers Week:

On Thursday March 3rd, engineer Sharon Quigley from Aecom came in to talk to our class. She talked to us about the different types of engineering and the role of engineers in our lives. It was a really interesting talk. Afterwards each group worked on the Marshmallow Challenge.

Working in groups of three, we had twenty minutes to design the tallest free standing structure using only 20 spaghetti strips, one metre of string, one metre of masking tape and one marshmallow. Kristiyan, Kate and Callum's structure was the tallest at 46 cm.



## EU Projects

On Wednesday 2nd March we presented our EU Projects. We had worked hard in pairs for several weeks on our projects. Each pair presented their poster project and/or PowerPoint presentation.

After each project there was food from our chosen country. Sixth class came to view our presentations and were rewarded with lots of European cuisine such as Italian pizza and lasagne, English scones, pancakes, Danish

pastries, Belgian waffles, French crepes and croissants, German pretzels and frankfurters, Spanish ham and doritos, Lithuanian biscuits, Dutch cheese and Stroop waffles, Bulgarian banitsa.

Each pair presented so well and three projects were rewarded with Easter eggs: United Kingdom, Netherlands and France.

Well done to all involved!



## AWARD OF SCIENCE AND MATHS EXCELLENCE

Our school has participated in this venture over the past number of years. We try to involve all classes. There are five steps to be completed to apply for an Award of Science and Maths Excellence. A discovery log of all science work is to be kept.

- **STEP 1: SCIENCE**  
6 hands on science investigation in Living Things, Energy and Forces, Materials and Environmental Awareness and Care. Invite a science speaker to our school.
- **STEP 2: TECHNOLOGY (ICT)**  
Develop a website. Use technology to record and analyse data collected eg graph.
- **STEP 3: ENGINEERING**  
Design and Make Activity such as Design a Bridge, Design a boat. Invite an engineer to speak to your class.
- **STEP 4: MATHS**  
Using maths skills and knowledge as part of science. Develop a maths trail around school.
- **STEP 5: STEM SHOWCASE**  
Have a science display in school (Intel Mini Scientist), take part in any science fair eg RDS Science Fair

### Design a Boat:

Working with our buddies, we designed a boat. Each pair designed and made a boat that would hold the maximum number of chick pea passengers!

We explored what shapes would hold the most passengers. We found that the shape of the boat affects the weight it can hold. The more water that the boat displaces, the more it will float and the more weight it can take. To ensure it was a fair test, each pair got the same size ball of plasticine.

We had to roll it out and then mould it to create a boat. Evan, Joe, Eric and their buddies Matthew, James and Joseph created a boat that held 220 chickpeas!



## Junior Entrepreneur

6th Class put in a huge amount of work developing our own business plans for the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. As entrepreneurs, we came up with a business idea, conducted market research and then made a sample of our product.

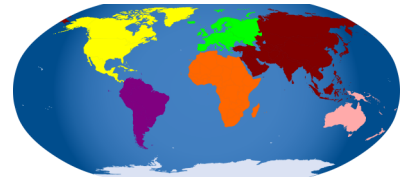
We then prepared a pitch for the "Dragons" who were Des Kennedy, Sandra Cunningham and Mary O' Gorman. After we all presented, the dragons chose the winning idea.

The idea that is now being developed by our class is a:

## SCHOOL RECIPE BOOK.

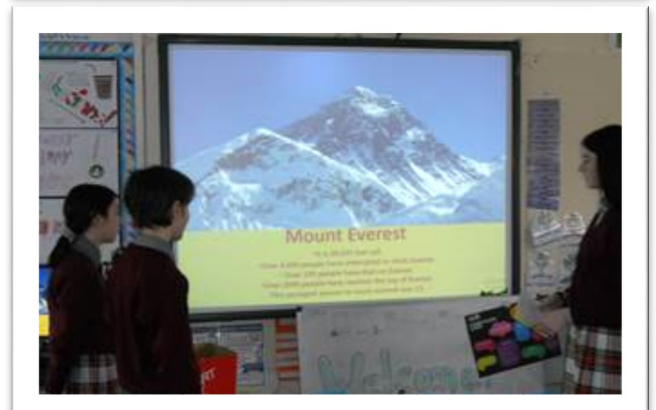
We are working really hard on this and look forward to the final product!

## Continents Day



We held a "Continents Day" in January. In groups, we prepared a Powerpoint and poster on our Continent and presented it to our class. We then invited some classes to come and visit our room to explore each continent.

We prepared food from our continent and wore clothes that represented some peoples from the continent. It was a lot of work but we really enjoyed the day!





## Challenge Day

To celebrate the fact that we made our Confirmation on the 4th March 2016, we had a "Challenge Day!" Ms. Dunne split the class into 2 teams and gave us a series of challenges throughout the day.

These included, blowing up balloons, balancing races, riddles, a quiz and marshmallow constructions! We also had to make up our own school song and dance moves! Domino's Pizza was delivered to us in school which was yum!

