

April 2014 Newsletter

Our Lady of the Wayside National School

First Penance

The children in second class are all busy preparing for First Holy Communion on Saturday 17th May. First Penance took place on Wednesday 6th March.

Green Schools - Update

The Green-school committee has updated its team with two new representatives from classes from 2nd-6rd. These representatives will be on the committee for 2013/2014. We are working on maintaining our two green flags- Waste Flag and Energy Flag.

Waste Flag: We continue to recycle in every classroom in our school. We have three separate bins to help with this:

Paper Bin, Fruit and Skins Bin and a Rubbish Bin. Each week the Fruit and Skins waste is collected and disposed of in our composting area in our school grounds.

3-6th Class students monitor the Paper Bins each week to ensure that each classroom is recycling correctly. They then report back to each class to inform of any incorrect recycling that may be happening.

Students also observe what is being placed into the Fruit and Skins bins and report back weekly to every class.

Energy-Flag: We continue to save on energy by switching off the lights in all rooms when not absolutely needed; we keep doors closed in order to keep rooms warm. If a room gets too hot we turn the radiators off before opening the windows and we have timers and thermostats installed on the boilers.

Confirmation

Confirmation for 6th Class will be held on Friday April 4th in St. Mary's Church, Sandyford.



Service of Light for 6th Classes takes place on 27th March in St. Mary's Church, Sandyford.

Arriving and Leaving School

School officially opens at 8.50 am. Children may arrive from 8.40 – 9.00 am.



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.



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.

Battery Recycling



We have started recycling batteries for WEEE and hope to earn points for I.T. and sports equipment in our school.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

From the 10th – 14th March we celebrated “Seachtain na Gaeilge “ in Our lady of the Wayside and there were different activities going on in the classes. We had a parade on the 12th of March in the school yard.

A number of the classes had quizzes in the hall through Irish and there was Irish music in the hall on a number of mornings. We had news reports over the intercom during the week and some classes worked hard on Seanfhocail.

We also had a “Gaeilge Trail” and a huge effort was made to improve the standard of Oral Irish in the school during this time.



St. Brigid’s Crosses – 1st Class

St Brigid’s Day is on the 1st of February. St Brigid is the female patron saint of Ireland. She was a kind and beautiful woman. She was born near Dundalk, Co. Louth. When she was younger her father wanted her to get married but she wanted to spend her life helping others.

One of the things most associated with St Brigid is her cross. The St Brigid’s Cross is traditionally made from rushes that have been ripped from the ground. They are woven together to make the cross. St Brigid’s crosses are supposed to be hung in the house to protect everyone in it from evil. Each year, a new cross should be made and the old cross burned.

The St Brigid’s cross looks different from ordinary crosses. In 1st class, we made our own versions of the St Brigid’s cross by twisting and weaving pipe cleaners in different colours.



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.



Neighbours

It is important to respect our neighbours and park properly.

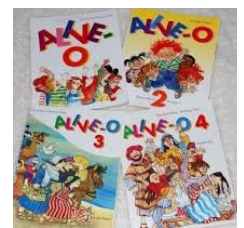
Uniform Survey

The Board of Management recently conducted a survey regarding our school uniform. The results and a copy of our uniform policy were sent home to all families. The majority of our families are happy with our current school uniform and tracksuit, therefore, there will be no changes made. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Book Rental Scheme

We are currently looking into starting a book rental scheme. We plan to start the rental scheme on a phased basis.

Please drop any **Alive-O**, **Mathemagic** and **Len & Jen** books that you wish to donate to the school into Helen.



St. Patrick's Day News from Second Class



Sarah and Tom painting our school banner for the St. Patricks Day parade.

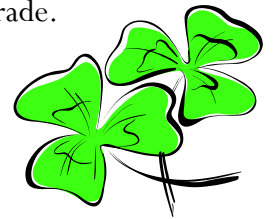


Emma gets creative!



Left:

David and Laura lead the parade.



Below:

“Lá le Pádraig”, Second Class.



SPORT IN OUR SCHOOL

Cycling

Sixth class have been busy taking part in cycling classes for six weeks on Wednesdays. They learnt how to make safe turns, cycle safely and sensibly on the road.

Report by Gareth Donovan (6th Class Student)

On the 22nd of January a man called Rory came in to our class to teach us about cycling on the road. In our first lesson Rory wanted to check if we all knew the basic rules about cycling like which side of the road you cycle on and which brake you pull first.

The next week we got to cycle in the yard. We practised putting our hands out to signal which way we were going to go. We also played a game called the slow race. Basically whoever was the slowest to the finish line won. In this case it was between Scott, Shane and Darragh.



The next week there was horrible weather so we got to watch a video instead. The video was about learning the right thing to do on the road while riding a bike. There was a quiz at the end and we got all the questions right.

Fierce winds had occurred the next week leaving us again with no lesson. Luckily the next few weeks we had good weather. One of the weeks we cycled in groups. It was more

difficult when we added more people. We ended up having the whole class try it together.

Also in the yard there are lanes and one group of people had to cycle on the inside lane and the other group had to cycle on the outside lane. Sometimes we got confused and cycled on the wrong side of the road.



When we got to our last lesson we had to cycle in (T) junctions. Sometimes it was complicated to know who went first, but we figured it out in the end. Overall we all had a great time. There were loads of funny moments but we still learnt everything we need to know about cycling in general. We had an amazing teacher who never got angry and taught everything in a very understandable way. It was a very enjoyable experience.



SPORT IN OUR SCHOOL

Swimming



Swimming lessons were cancelled in our school due to the closure of Glenalbyn Swimming Pool. We are happy to announce that swimming will start back in September 2014 in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Leisure Centre in **LOUGHLINSTOWN**. More details to follow. Ms Corcoran

Gymnastics

Neil Gissane of NRG will return to give 6 sessions of Gymnastics per class commencing Wednesday 6th March 2014. Thank you to the Development Fund for funding this great activity.



Hockey

Our Hockey team got new skorts. Thank you to the Student Council and Sports Fund.



Skiping Workshop



We had Skip-Hop visit our school and provide two days of skipping on March 20th & 21st. Every child had the opportunity to take part in one of the workshops that took place. The cost for the workshop was provided by the Development Fund. See below and left for pictures.



The Student Council

The Student Council has been busy again this year. Each class from third to sixth has elected two students to represent their class. They meet on the last Friday of each month.

The representatives are:

- 3rd - Mr Kenna:
Eoghan O’Riordan and Cassie Harkin
- 3rd - Ms. Dunne:
Abbey Vaughan and Evan Keogh
- 4th - Mr Mac Greil:
Aimée O’Neill and Colm D’Alton
- 5th - Ms. Duckenfield:
Emma Soraghan and Peter Quigley
- 6th - Ms. Gannon:
Jessica Doyle and Luka Stojanovic
- 6th - Ms. Lyster:
Ciara O’Riordan and Conor Sullivan

Last year’s Student Council selected equipment for the yard that we are using now. We got chess board, snakes and ladders, connect 4 boards all installed in the yard. We also got blackboards and fun mazes for the younger classes. Each class from third to sixth has their own chess, draught pieces and counters to play with in the yard. The student council suggested mirrors for the senior bathrooms which Coilín has recently installed.

Cake Sale

Ms Gannon's Sixth Class held a cake sale for the National Council for the Blind of Ireland on Friday January 17th. The 26 children in the class worked so hard baking a wide variety of delicious cakes. Superquinn, Ballinteer also very generously donated a huge range of cakes and bread free of charge. We raised €1,152.61 for the NCBI. We were delighted to help such a worthy cause.



BT Young Scientist

Ms Gannon’s sixth class were in the BT Young Scientist on Saturday January 11th. Their project ‘Does being right or left handed correlate with a corresponding eye, ear, hand or foot dominance?’ really impressed the judge. They had tested over 300 children in the school. They were awarded a trophy for their project. They found that 95% of right handed children were right side dominant. Whereas left handed children were more neutral using both sides of their body. The class had an amazing day and were on the RTÉ News that Saturday lunchtime.



Award of Science and Maths Excellence 2014

We have applied for an Award of Science and Maths Excellence again this year. Many classes are hard at work doing science experiments and integrating maths into their work. Ms Gannon’s sixth class entered the BT Young Scientist this year.

Ms. Dunne and Ms. O’Doherty’s classes are working hard on the Greenwave project watching for the signs of spring and gathering and recording the weather for the month of March using a rain gauge and thermometer.



Ms. Sharkey and Ms. Gannon’s class have been busy working on science and maths activities such as Design a Boat, Amazing Triangles and Building Bridges.

Ms. Galavan’s class have also been busy Designing a Boat. Ms Sharkey’s class have been busy testing which tents were more windproof and waterproof and had fun investigating this fair test.

Engineer Aisling Murphy from Aecom came in during Engineers week (see picture below) and spoke to Ms. Gannon’s sixth class. Ms. Gannon’s class have created a class website to show their science work: <http://msgannonclass.weebly.com/>



Our Buddies

3rd Class and Senior Infants

3rd class Ms. Dunne and Senior Infants Ms. O' Doherty have been very busy with their buddies so far this year. We planted bulbs in our garden and can't wait to see them grow! Senior Infants taught us about 2-D shapes and helped us to make patterns with them.

We shared stories about the Vikings with our little buddies and made longships together. We had great fun finding out about our Chinese New Year Animal.



Little buddies taught big buddies about healthy eating while big buddies wrote about it as gaeilge. We learned a funny poem about a silly giant together and explored lots of old toys and games that we brought in. For the month of March, we are checking the temperature and measuring the rainfall every day as we are participating in the Award for Excellence in Science and Maths



Right: Ms. O'Doherty's Senior Infants and 3rd Class Ms. Dunne doing a quiz "as gaeilge" around the school

Rang 4 News

Our Buddies

Children in Rang 4 met up with their Buddies in Ms. Mohally's class. We chose a selection of our own favourite children stories to read to our Buddies. They were delighted with the choice of story and we in Rang 4 have made lasting friendships with Ms. Mohally's class.



Project Report

Children in Rang 4 have been very busy researching topics and doing projects.

The Mayan Civilisation: Our most recent project was on the Mayan Civilisation in Central and South America. This is on display on the stairs leading to our classroom.

Whales: We recently completed a project on the magnificent whales off our shores. This project is displayed in our Hall for all to admire. There is a photograph of a Fin whale that beached on Achill Island during the bad storms along with a dolphin which was another casualty of the bad storms we had at that time.



Hairspray

We in rang a 4 had the good fortune to be invited to Holy Child secondary school to see their production of Hairspray. We really enjoyed it and learnt a lot about the hurt children experience when other children treat them badly. Thanks to Claire, Lauren and Sarah, pupils from Holy Child and past pupils of Our Lady of the Wayside who looked after us so well.



Right:
Claire, Lauren and Sarah
look after us at Holy Child
Secondary School

Rang 4 News

St. Brigid's Day

We in rang 4 celebrated St. Brigid's Day, Feb 1st. by making St Brigid crosses. We were quite successful in our efforts.



Mr Sutton's Visit

We had the great pleasure to listen to Mr. Albert Sutton when he came to visit our school recently. He held the children spellbound for a whole hour while he talked about his involvement in the RAF during the second World War. We have a photographic display of his talk and all his medals outside Ms. Corcoran's office.

