

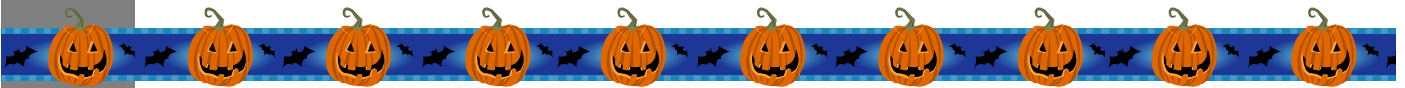
# October 2014 Newsletter

Our Lady of the Wayside National School



## Dates for your diary

<b>Thurs November 20th 2014</b>	Book Fair
<b>Friday December 19th 2014</b>	School closes at 12 noon for Christmas holidays
<b>Monday January 05th 2015</b>	School re-opens following Christmas holidays
<b>Friday February 27th 2015</b>	Confirmation
<b>Saturday May 09th 2015</b>	First Holy Communion



## Welcome to new staff!!

Mr. O'Brien: Learning Support  
Ms. Jones: 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Emer Murphy: SNA  
Welcome back to our SNA Rachel who has just returned from maternity leave. Thank you to Kate and Linda who covered her maternity leave.

## School Website

Our Website is constantly being updated. Each class have an area and update it regularly. Please check it out at:  
[www.ourladyofthewaysidens.ie](http://www.ourladyofthewaysidens.ie)

## School Start Time

We have noticed children arriving to the school as early as 8.15 am. School opening time is 8.50 am – due to traffic etc. we have allowed an earlier drop off time of 8.40 am. Please do not arrive before 8.40 am.

The BOM have facilitated a breakfast club “Popins” for children. This club allows for children to come to school from 7.30 am. If you would like to avail of this service please contact Donna Ward 0872752959 or Julie Walsh 0877979613.

If you are not part of this club, please adhere to arriving at the school between 8.40 am – 9.00 am. We appreciate your support.

## We are Writers

We are delighted to let everyone know that our School Book – “We Are Writers” will hopefully be launched at our Book Fair on November 20<sup>th</sup>, where a sample copy will be available for perusal.

“We Are Writers” is an initiative instigated by Scholastic Publishers who have given us the opportunity to produce our very own school book of short stories and, in some cases, very amusing random thoughts. Each child in the school has been given the chance to make a contribution.



We very much appreciate the chance given to us by Ms. Corcoran (who came to us with the idea) the Library Committee, whose hard work in running the Book Fair encouraged Scholastic Publishers to take us on board, and of course all of our young writers who took such pride in producing such a wonderful book.

Finally, we wish to take this opportunity to thank the “We Are Writers” team in Scholastic Publications who gave us help and encouragement. So, all going well, we hope to have our book ready for sale in time for Christmas. I’m sure the children will keep you informed.

M. Duckenfield

## Interactive White Boards

Eight New interactive white boards have been purchased and put into classes so far and more will be purchased. The teachers did a two hour workshop on the use of these.

## Hockey Blitz

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2014, players from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class took part in a hockey blitz in St Gerard's primary school in Bray. We all had a blast but unfortunately the weather was horrible. It was our first match of the season. We played well but unfortunately we lost 2 matches but we also drew 2 matches. It was a great experience for the girls and we look forward to the rest of the season!



## 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 carpark gate. Only children accompanied by an adult may walk through the Church grounds. No parents should park in Staff Car Park when collecting children.

## Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent teacher meetings will be held in November. More details will follow with times being distributed after the mid-term break.

## Preparations for the harsh winter weather!!!

Hopefully we won't experience any severe weather or heavy snowfalls this winter. However, in the event of a bad spell of winter weather, we will endeavour to keep the school open.



# Charity Events



## Irish Hospice Coffee Morning

Well done to all who helped to raise €168 on the Irish Hospice Foundation coffee morning.

## Goal Jersey Day

A huge 'thank you' to all who contributed to the GOAL Jersey Day. Total amount raised was €693.28

The school website-[www.ourladyofthewaysidens.ie](http://www.ourladyofthewaysidens.ie) will be updated regularly with school arrangements. Parents will also receive text messages informing them of any changes to the normal school opening times.

If snowfall or very icy conditions occur, please remember that it is acceptable to drop your children to school later than 8.50am, if you are in a position to do so. This will ease the traffic flow and ensure a safer environment for all.



If any parents are available to help clear footpaths of snow during the school week (particularly mornings), would they please leave their names and contact numbers with Helen in the school office.

Hopefully, we will not have to resort to any of these arrangements over the coming months!!

# Our Buddies

## 6th Class and 2nd Class

Ms. Dunne's 6th class are buddies with Ms O' Doherty's 2<sup>nd</sup> class. So far this year we have been with our buddies for four lessons. We have joined them with Irish foods, golden time, autumn poems and inventions.

Golden time is a spell of 40mins in which we decided what activity we wanted to do.

In the Irish foods activity we talked about our favourite foods but as Gaeilge and we wrote what we liked and didn't like etc.

Lastly we drew the inventions our buddies invented. Some of these inventions were money trees, flying pig makers and a time machine. It was great fun because they had some wacky ideas.

We have enjoyed what we have done with our buddies and cannot wait to do more.

## 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 McGreil:  
**Will Ward and Sarah Coffey**
- 4th - Mr Kenna:  
**Niamh Boyle and Alex Madden/Adam Fernandez**
- 4th - Ms Duckenfield:  
**Joshua Doyle and Ciara Naughton**
- 5th - Ms. Gannon:  
**Sarah McMahan and Charlie West**
- 6th - Ms. Dunne:  
**Sulayman Ahmed and Caoimhe Mc Coy**

## National Concert Hall Music in the Classroom

Some classes will attend the Music in the Classroom event in the National Concert Hall on Monday November 17<sup>th</sup>.



Ms. Dunnes 6th Class with their 2nd class buddies



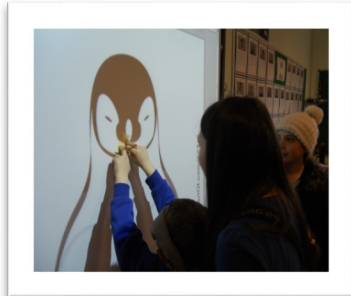




## Expedition to Antarctica

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October, Ms Gannon’s fifth class and Ms. Galavan’s first class made the long trek to Antarctica. We had been learning about Antarctica for the last few weeks. Fifth class were reading the novel ‘Tom Crean: Ice Man: The Adventures of an Irish Antarctic Hero’ We transformed our classroom into Antarctica for the day! After our plane ride, we landed and explored Antarctica holding onto ropes so we wouldn’t lose anyone in the blizzard. Tour guides gave us information on the different animals we found in Antarctica. We did freeze frames in our group imagining someone had frostbite! We were then rewarded with Penguin bars!

We then played games such as penguin bowling, walking on skis, husky sledge rides, exploring the food depots/tents and pin the beak on the penguin. We then worked with our buddies doing radio messages using radio talk. It is very important in Antarctica to keep in touch with people on the ice. We then enjoyed some ice-creams. After lunch we enjoyed watching ‘Happy Feet’ enjoying some popcorn!



## Designing Parachutes



Ms. Dunne's sixth class and Ms. Gannon's fifth class spent the month of September investigating parachutes. First they investigated what was the best size parachute. Each group made parachutes of three different sizes: 20x20cm, 30x30cm and 40x40cm. They investigated which was the best size using stopwatches and metres stick to measure speed and distance travelled.

It was important to ensure it was a fair test. The next week we explored using different materials such as tissue paper, tin foil, cling film and plastic to make the best parachute. In our third week, each group chose their best parachute and attached an egg. Their aim was to drop their parachute out the first floor window and for it to land without breaking the egg. A few groups were successful. But all had great fun designing parachutes and learned loads!

