



Parent Association Newsletter

March 2012

Dear Parents,

For fear that it might ever be taken for granted or not understood by all, let me state unequivocally that the children of St. Patrick's are wonderful. I have been struck on so many occasions recently by just how readily they rise to challenges and how well they conduct themselves and represent their school. They are a credit to you and we are privileged to work with them. There are so many examples of this that it would be impossible to include them all but I feel it is important to mention a few.

Last week, as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge, we brought in excess of 300 girls down to Holy Redeemer for mass. The girls were impeccably behaved both in the church and while travelling along the Main Street and they were so respectful of the other members of the community they encountered. It is also important to note that during the recent whole school evaluation, the inspectors were fulsome in their praise of the children and were struck by how positively engaged and how motivated they are.

To give you a flavour of the ingenuity and creativity of so many of the children in the school, I must mention the group of girls from 5th Class who sought a meeting with me a number of weeks ago. The purpose of the meeting was to put a proposal to me that they had been working on and that they were anxious to pursue. Their idea was to organise a fun day for the children of St. Patrick's as a fundraiser in support of the Michael Tiron appeal. Michael had been a classmate of theirs in Junior and Senior Infants and they were anxious to be involved and to support his appeal. They had a clearly thought out strategy with each girl taking responsibility for a particular aspect of the "pitch". It was quite clear that they were the ones who wanted to take on the responsibility and workload of organising such an event and had very definite ideas.

What was wonderfully reassuring about this encounter was not just that we had highly impressive, capable and organised young ladies on our hands (which is not confined to 5th Class) but more that we had girls whose motivation was to use their gifts and talents in the service of others. The initiative and generosity of spirit of these girls was a timely reminder that the ethos of our school continues to thrive. I am delighted to report that the Parents' Committee has indicated its desire to support the girls in planning their event and that it will take place on a date to be arranged during the summer term. Maith sibh, a chailíní!

As always, at this time of year, the girls who are preparing for Confirmation and First Communion are very much in our thoughts. The girls have put so much hard work into their preparation and this is such an important time in their lives. I would ask you all to keep them in your prayers and our hope for them is that Confirmation and First Communion is a memorable and lasting faith experience for each one of them.

I hope all of you will enjoy a restful Easter break and I look forward to a busy, productive and enjoyable summer term for all of the children in the school.

Yours sincerely,

Brian O'Doherty
Principal

This Issue:

P1
Principals Letter

P2
Dates For Your Diary
Chairpersons Address

P3
First Class Poetry
Clothes around the world.

P4
The Firemens Visit
The Vile Victorians

P5
Adventures of Niamh
Carters Tomb Find
The Solar System

P6
Healthy Habits Week
Internet Security
When Sadhbh met Brian

P7
Do Gruffalos Exist?
Smoothie Rap.

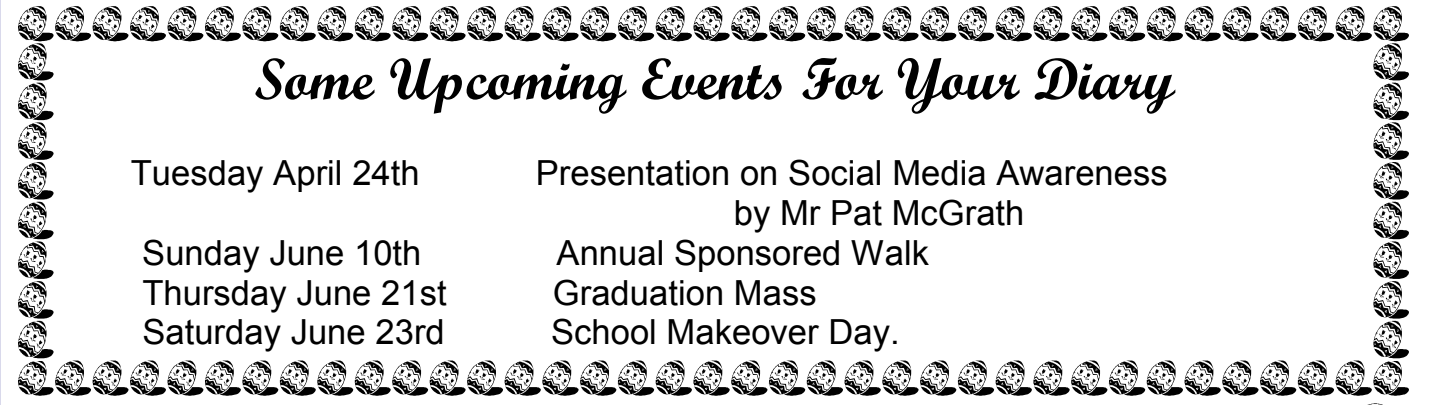
P8
Sound Collectors
Connemara Whale
Table Quiz

Easter Egg Hunt.

Just for Fun, see how many of these Easter Eggs you can find in this newsletter.

This is No. 1.





Some Upcoming Events For Your Diary

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Tuesday April 24th | Presentation on Social Media Awareness by Mr Pat McGrath |
| Sunday June 10th | Annual Sponsored Walk |
| Thursday June 21st | Graduation Mass |
| Saturday June 23rd | School Makeover Day. |



Chairpersons Address

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of our second term already. The first term of school ended with our Family Christmas Carol Evening which was enjoyed by all, and, we thank all the parents and children who came out that night even though it was a cold evening. After that Santa made his visit to all the children in the school and gave them all a little treat. The committee put together twelve Christmas hampers which were raffled in the school and all the money that was collected €590 in total is being donated to the Loreto School in Sudan which you would have read about in our last newsletter. The Committee also made a presentation of two hampers to the society of St Vincent De Paul on behalf of the school.

In February I and two other members of the committee met with the Inspectors as part of the Whole School Evaluation which took place at the end of February. As Chairperson I was invited to attend the post evaluation report and I was very proud to hear about all the good work that is and continues to be done in St. Patricks and I would like to say on behalf of the Parent Association a big Thank You to our Principal Brian O'Doherty and all the staff for continually doing a great job.

Our Table Quiz was a very entertaining and enjoyable night and even though we had reduced the price of the tables we still managed to raise a very healthy €1,350 so well done to everybody.

As you read this newsletter our Cake Sale will have taken place and I hope that all the lovely cakes and buns were enjoyed by all!

Looking to term three I have a few dates for your diary. The committee have arranged an information evening for parents on the topic of Social Networking, Bulling and other issues regarding the use of the Internet. The presentation will be given on the night by Pat McKenna who is a director of Child Watch Ireland. I recently attended a workshop facilitated by Pat and found it to be most enlightening and informative. The date for this is Tuesday 24th April at 8.00pm in the school hall and all adults are welcome to attend. A letter will be issued about it nearer to the date.

Our sponsored walk is scheduled to take place on Sunday 10th June and our Makeover Day on Saturday 23rd June. More information will follow nearer those dates.

Finally thank you to all my fellow committee members for all their hard work thus far, and on behalf of the committee I wish you all a very Happy Easter!

Yours sincerely
CAROL WHELAN
Chairperson

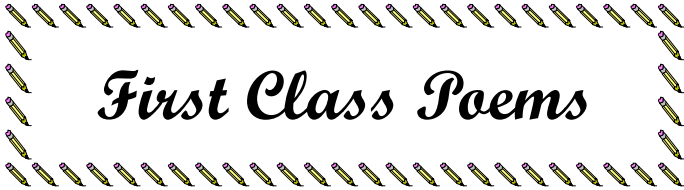


Sunny days are all about,
 Pretty flowers in the garden,
 Rabbits running around your feet,
 I like Spring so much!
 Nice baby animals, like lambs,
 Getting all the flowers for Mum.

By Elise Butler Shortt

Spring everybody likes Spring!
 It's the best time of the year.
 Baby animals are born - lambs, piglets
 and calves.
 You can have picnics.
 Just Spring, everybody likes Spring!
 It's very sunny.
 Flowers of primroses and daffodils.
 Just everybody likes SPRING!

By Hannah Kelly



First Class Poems

So close to Summer,
 Picnics on sunny days,
 Really cute and cuddly animals,
 I love Spring and all the colours,
 New flowers start to grow,
 Good baby lambs.

By Amy Brien

Such fun for everyone!
 Perfect!
 Really happy!
 I love Spring!
 Nothing is better!
 Great!!!!

By Aoife Carter

Super sunny days,
 Pretty primroses,
 Really beautiful rainbows,
 Insects fly from flower to flower,
 New baby animals are born,
 Garden flowers grow.

By Ellen O' Doherty



Super nice you know!
 Primroses, very pretty
 Rainy sometimes,
 Inspiring for me!
 Nice and warm,
 Great for growing.

By Erica Brierton

Clothes around the world

In Ms Travers 4th class we learned about different clothes around the world. We looked around the world at countries like India, China, Scotland, Northern Canada, Japan, Egypt and Ireland.

The clothes were very beautiful, very different and fascinating. These were some of the clothes girls brought into our class for display: an Egyptian dress and abaya, an Indian sari & blouse, Japanese jacket, Scottish kilts, Irish dancing costume and Aran jumper.

We found that people use different material for clothes in different countries depending on the climate and that there are lots of traditional clothes still worn around the world today.

By Yasmin Finane and Abbie Sargent



The Firemens Visit



On the 27th February two men from the Fire Brigade came to our class.

Their names were Officer Stefan and Officer Stuart. They were wearing blue uniforms. They showed us a burnt fire alarm they had taken off the ceiling of a house on fire. They came to tell us about the Safety Team and the Hazard Squad. The Safety Team stops fires and tells us how to keep safe. For example, Plan Man tells us to make an escape plan just in case there is ever a fire in our home. Beep tells us to have a smoke alarm. You should change the battery in your smoke alarm once a year and check that it is working once a week.

The fireman talked about some of the fire hazards in the house like Arc, Flint and Scratch. Arc is a plug and Arc likes to overload sockets. Flint is a lighter and he likes to burn people. Scratch is a matchbox and he helps Flint to burn people. The firemen told us that if there was a fire in the kitchen and you were in the kitchen you should lie down, cover you face with a wet cloth and crawl to the door. The Emergency Number for the Fire Brigade is 112 or 999. They told us if our clothes caught on fire to ...STOP, DROP and ROLL to put the fire out.

The firemen gave each of us a folder with homework for our mums and dads, stickers, a door hanger and a game for us to play.

We learned a lot from the firemen and it was very interesting to listen to them. We had fun too!

*By Anna Cloney, Aoife Fitzgerald and Alison Shortt
Ms. Breathnach's 3rd Class*

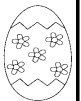


The Vile Victorians

In Ms Travers' 4th class we recently did projects on The Victorian Era. They were very interesting, yet horrible times!!! We studied children in Victorian times at school, work and play. They used children as slaves and they worked in terrible conditions. It was horrendous! They were expected to work 8-12 hours daily. Their pay was awful too, families could hardly afford food. Some couldn't afford any! Poor children would eat porridge for breakfast and bread for dinner. If they were lucky they might get bacon. Children who were lucky enough to go to school were treated awfully too. We still play some of the games that were played in Victorian times today!

Our Victorian plays and projects were finished in February. We really enjoyed creating with our plays. Our favourite play was Victorian children at school because the scenes were very captivating!

We also did the plays for the inspector who said it was amazing!!! A few days later we performed our plays for our parents and they said we were brilliant too!!!



By Kaylagh Corish, Ellen Devlin and Robyn Bradshaw



The Adventures of Niamh

3rd Class participated in the 'Write A Book' project this year. We produced some fabulous stories. Here is an extract from the winning book in our class. Well done, Órla!

Chapter 1



"Wake up sleepy head," said Dad, "We are going on an adventure."

"An adventure," I thought as I jumped out of bed, pulled on my clothes and raced down stairs. With great excitement we ate our breakfast quickly. Before long we were in the car ready to go. Dad had a big smile on his face. No matter how hard I tried Dad wouldn't tell me where we were going. "Nearly there," I heard him whisper to Mum. I looked out of the window and saw some boats. "Are we going on a boat?" I asked, hoping the answer would be yes. "You'll find out sooner or later Niamh. Follow me!" replied Dad, as we jumped out of the car.

We followed Dad to the pier where an old man with a clipboard stood. He checked our names and pointed to our boat, "The Seal". There were six boats in a line. Ours was number four. We climbed across three boats to get to "The Seal."

The adventure had begun!

By: Órla O'Callaghan

BREAKING NEWS: Carter Finds Tomb!

This term, 3rd Class have been learning about Ancient Egypt. Sarah, Mia, Órla and Sarah have written a news article based on the discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun.

5th November 1922, The Valley of the Kings

Last night, 4th November, King Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered by a man called, Howard Carter. Carter (archaeologist) exclaimed, 'Surely never before in the whole history of excavation had such an amazing sight been seen!'

When Carter entered the tomb by the staircase, he had to make a hole in the door. When he peered through the hole, he saw lots and lots of gold. He managed to squeeze through the hole in the door and he made it through all the different rooms. Finally he reached the tomb of the Great King Tutankhamun. Carter and his team lifted off the top of the coffin and saw his death mask. It was made out of gold and thin strips of glass. Carter says that he will never ever forget this amazing sight.

Carter told us that Tutankhamun died at the age of eighteen and became king at the age of nine. It will take years to clear the tomb and list all of the amazing treasures that were in the pyramid.

What a magnificent discovery!

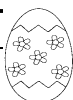
*Reported by: Sarah Vickers, Mia Salmon,
Órla O'Callaghan & Sarah Crocker*



The Solar System

This term we learned about The Solar System. We learned there are eight planets around the sun. We learned a mnemonic to remember the order in which they are from the sun; My Very Educated Mother Just Served Up noodles, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. There used to be a ninth planet but not anymore. It is called Pluto but it is now a dwarf planet. They have discovered two new planets, one is in the same orbit as Earth and the other is bigger than Jupiter and that's big because Jupiter is the largest planet! Water has been found on mars so that's really exciting! People can now go to space as a tourist but it's really expensive. Venus is the hottest planet even though it is not the closest planet to the sun. You are different ages on the different planets. Mercury is the closest to the sun so you would be much older- for example I am nine years old but on Mercury I am 39!!! Neptune is the furthest from the sun so you would be much younger; I am only a few weeks old on Neptune! Uranus and Saturn have rings made out of gas. We also learned about the first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong. The first dog to go to the moon was Laika. We made papier mache planets in art too! The class and I really enjoyed learning about the solar system.

By Amy Butler, Ms. Freeman's 3rd class





Our Healthy Habits Week

Had lots of fun and games
Making smoothies
Swapping books
And one big green day

Our healthy habits week
Started on Monday
Wasted art
Being smart
It will finish
One day

Our Healthy Habits week
We learnt lots
Hurray!
I had fun
So did you
We had fun
Today!

by Tara Allen



Green Day

As part of our Healthy Habits week, on Friday the 9th March we had our 'Green Day'. All of the children in our school had to wear green. Some people took this very seriously and wore loads of green!

In Ms. Travers' class we made a really healthy smoothie, it tasted really scrumptious. We also swapped books so we all got a chance to read new books for free! For art we made things out of recyclable stuff. We made three robots with our friends, they were pretty good.

We had a really good day and it was really cool!

By Ruta Macionyte and Finola McCarthy

Healthy Habits

Healthy habits are good for you,
Eat fruit and veg,
And not too many sweets,
Try to recycle and reuse,
Have healthy snacks,
Yummy smoothies are good for you.

Have a healthy breakfast,
Any daily exercise is good too,
Bananas are nice and healthy,
It's great to be healthy,
Try to make good choices,
Stay healthy!

By Eva and Elise

Internet Safety

On 5th March a lady from Microsoft came to 4th class. Her name was Denise. She taught us about internet safety.

We learnt that it can be very dangerous for children under thirteen that are on Facebook because strangers that you don't know may try to contact you. My class and I watched a short video that Denise had on her a computer.

Everybody in my class enjoyed the video and I think everybody knows what to do when a stranger contacts you online and asks unusual questions.

We also talked about our email passwords. Denise said that you should have a very tricky password with numbers and letters so nobody could guess it. She gave us a Microsoft pen and a big sheet. Inside the sheet was a little story. It was really fun to learn about internet safety!!!

By Devika Kannujiya



When Sadhbh Met Brian!

On Thursday the 15th of March, I got my photograph taken with Brian O Driscoll the rugby player. He came to Bray Lakers with other players from the Leinster rugby team to start a new community partnership. This means that all Leinster academy players will do community service with groups like Bray Lakers. Brian O Driscoll was lovely and friendly and I had great fun with him.



By Sadhbh Wogan Murphy [Ms Martin 4th class]



Do Gruffalos Exist?

St. Patrick's Loreto has a long tradition of welcoming students from the various Colleges of Education on teaching practice into our classrooms. This is an important preparation for their future careers in the teaching profession. It gives them an opportunity to test their theoretical knowledge about the art of learning with real live pupils--the best judges of all!

For three weeks of March, a final year student-teacher from Froebel College of Education, Ms. Sarah Phillips, has been working with my Senior Infant class. This has been a positive experience for all involved.

Ms. Phillips has undertaken several challenging and enjoyable projects with the class including pottery design, rhythmic compositions and the investigation of frogspawn!

One of the most worthwhile activities has been the development of imagination, linked to the cultivation of creative writing. Ms. Phillips began by reading the wonderful story *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson to the class. She went far beyond the tale itself, however, and using all five senses, explored a whole world of imaginary monsters. She also introduced the pupils to the equally compelling sequel to the book, *The Gruffalo's Child*, encouraging the pupils to contemplate the phenomenon of monster offspring!

Below are some excerpts from the pupils' own writing about gruffalos. Bearing in mind that these young scribes are all around six years old, I think it's clear that they have been skilfully guided into the exciting world of make-believe while still keeping a grip on reality --as seen in the final example below!

My Gruffalo by Eibhlín Ginty

My gruffalo is cute. He has a million eyes. I love the gruffalo stories. The gruffalo has sharp teeth.

My Gruffalo's Home by Chloe Johnston

My gruffalo lives in a cave and it is very very dark and smelly but it is the best cave ever.

Home Sweet Home by Meela Shortt

I live in a cave with my friends. It is dark and comfortable.

No Such Thing by Conall Butler

I live in a hive. It is smelly. There is no such thing as a Gruffalo!

I would like to wish Ms. Phillips and all our visiting student-teachers every success in their current teaching practice and in their future careers. The presence among us of these enthusiastic young people gives fresh insights, modern approaches and educational impetus to pupils and seasoned teachers alike. Maith sibh!

To finish off, an Easter blessing for all our readers:

"Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh go léir agus go dté sibh slán!"

And not a Gruffalo in sight!

Smoothie Rap

On Green Day

This is what we say,

We made a smooth-ie,

That was really yum-my,

Pineapples, apples, bananas blueberries,

Wouldn't you wish you got more & more?

Put them in the blender and make a smooth-ie

I'm telling you it's very tas-ty!



By Rachel Woods & Sarah Dempsey



Mrs. Sinéad Boland





The Sound Collectors

During the day
 We are hidden away
 In a busy school.
 People who pass us
 We take their voices
 We take the sound of...
 Pencils sharpening,
 Pencil-cases zipping,
 Munching of food,
 Pages turning,
 Children chatting,
 Pencils scattering and
 Chairs scraping under desks.
 We leave the school in silence
 As we walk away.

By Emily Sheridan O'Shea & Della Ivory

The Sound Collectors

We went around stealing sounds...
 One Direction's music,
 The sound of screaming girls!
 The whistling of the kettle,
 The bark of the dog,
 The tick of the clock,
 The slamming of the door.
 The zip of a coat,
 The purring of the cat,
 The popping of the popcorn,
 The bubbling of the bath.
 We left the house with our sounds
 And went to the next house
 Ready to collect more!

By Maia Costello & Cristina Pricop

The Connemara Whale

The Connemara Whale swam ashore one day,
 Whether he was sick or old nobody could say.
 He had travelled through clear blue oceans,
 A hundred million miles
 And had seen a billion fishes and seagulls in the skies.
 The Connemara Whale will soon be heading home,
 Just where he belongs,
 He will never be alone.

By Aoife Hart – 3rd Class

Hidden Easter Eggs

And this is egg 15.
 Did you spot all 15 Eggs?



The recent table quiz held by the Parents Association was a great success and thanks go to everyone who organised, attended and supported the event. The following are the local businesses who provided prizes for the evening.

- Boots
- Costellos Opticians
- Dickers
- Dubray Books
- East Coast Jewellery
- Frocks n Frills
- Liz Annes Coffee House
- McDonalds
- Monica Peters
- Myrtles
- Onyx
- Premier Arts & Crafts
- Robert Boland
- Royal Hotel
- Scotts Tools
- Simply Market
- Smyths
- Vance & Wilson / Kennedys



Thank You