



# Parent Association Newsletter



## Chairpersons Address

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Well we have nearly reached the end of the school year and boy has time flown. It seems like only yesterday that we were welcoming our Junior Infants and now they are getting ready to go into senior infants.

It was a very busy year for the Parent Association, in which we tried to combine fundraising for our school, fundraising for charity and also passing on to parents relevant information and holding information evenings. I would like to thank all who supported all of the various events which I am glad to say were very successful.

In this final term we still have a few dates for your diary. On Thursday 21st June the 6th Class girls will have their graduation mass in Holy Redeemer church. Then on Saturday 23rd June we have our annual make-over day in which we hope as many parents as possible will come along and give of their time by doing gardening, painting and other odd jobs around the school. All the materials will be provided as well as lunch to keep you going!! A note about this will have gone out to everyone.

The final date we have is our annual Second-Hand Uniform Sale – which by request is on Wednesday 27th June from 7pm – 9pm in the school hall. All proceeds from the sale will go towards the upkeep of the school.

As with all committees, some members will be calling time as their children move on to secondary school. On behalf of the Parent Association I would like to thank all retiring members of the committee most sincerely for all their time, hard work and commitment, many hands do make light work and you will be missed!

We are always looking for new members to join us on the committee and I will be writing to you in early September asking you to consider becoming part of the committee for the coming year.

Enjoy your summer

Yours sincerely

CAROL WHELAN

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## Some Upcoming Events For Your Diary

**Thursday June 21st**

**Graduation Mass.**

**Saturday June 23rd**

**School Makeover Day.**

**Wednesday June 27th**

**Second hand Uniform Sale.**





## Principals Letter

June 2012

Dear Parents,

I used to smile wryly to myself and be somewhat dismissive when my father used to lament just how quickly the years seemed to pass by and yet here I am writing this piece for the end of year newsletter when it seems no length of time since I undertook the same task last year. And yet one only has to reflect on all that has happened throughout the course of the year to realise just what a full and busy year it has been. Maybe my father had a point!

One of the most important aspects of the year, from a school development perspective, was the evaluation process the school underwent back in February. It provided us with an opportunity to get independent and objective feedback in relation to all aspects of what we do, and while the process was forensic and exhausting, it was very worthwhile and shapes our agenda into the future. The Inspectors' report will be put on the Department of Education's website either during the course of the summer or early in the new academic year. I will let you know when, should you wish to read it.

On behalf of the children, staff, parents and Board of Management of St. Patrick's, I would like to sincerely thank Carol Whelan (Chairperson) and all of the members of the Parents' Committee for all that they have achieved this year and the many projects and events they have undertaken. As always, they have given generously and willingly of their time and talents and we deeply appreciate all the work they do on behalf of the school. I would also like to thank all of the parents who are not on the committee but who have also contributed so much whether as librarians, on the Green School committee, helping out at events or accompanying classes on trips and to games. Such parental involvement is both welcome and necessary and we look forward to continuing to work with you in the new school year. Congratulations also to the wonderful group of girls from 5th Class who organised such a successful Fun Day in aid of the Michael Tiron appeal. Their running total is now up to €2428.

By the time you get this newsletter, you should have received your child's school report, their booklist and a copy of the holiday list for 2012/13 which was sent home in May. In respect of the holiday list, I would like to remind you that greater flexibility has been built in to the standardised year to allow schools to compensate for prolonged enforced closures due to bad weather. Mercifully, we didn't experience that this year but it is important to note that the February mid-term break or the Easter holiday period could be subject to change at the Board's discretion.

Finally, I hope all of the children thoroughly enjoy their last few weeks of term but particularly our 6th Class girls and our Senior Infant boys who will be leaving us at the end of June. We will be sad to see them leave but we wish them every happiness in the future.

Yours sincerely,  
Brian O'Doherty  
Principal



## Bray Beach



Bray beach is beautiful  
and old,  
It's enjoyable but cold,  
It has cheerful ice-cream shops,  
And waves that crash against the rocks.  
The water spout spun,  
Rapidly out at sea  
Watching the video on YouTube was fun,  
But in real life it was scary.  
I feel sorry for the homeless man,  
I hope he was alright,  
When he heard the crashing noise,  
He must have got a fright.  
The sea was blue, almost black,  
But it was very nice,  
To stand beside and sit beside,  
But to touch as cold as ice.

*By Emily Kearney (5th Class)*

## Zoo Animal Facts *By: Robyn Daly*

Did you know that elephants have only four teeth? When they lose all of their teeth, they die. When they lose all of their teeth, they cannot eat so they die.

Did you know, in Dublin Zoo, there is a lion called Sheila? She is 23 years old and alone. Her partner died at 25 years old. It is very sad that she is all alone now.

Did you know that when giraffes are too warm, they stick out their tongues? Their tongues are a black colour and are so long that they can stick their tongue in their ears to clean them! Disgusting, right?

Did you know that hippos' skin isn't as hard as it looks? It can get sunburnt very easily and that's why you mostly see them living in water. They like to cool down.

## Betty and the Heron

There is a lady called Betty who lives down the road from me. She buys bread in Superquinn to feed the birds in the Peoples Park.

She has made friends with a Grey Heron. He waits at the park gate for her to come with her trolley.

In her trolley she carries chicken which she has bought specially from Superquinn. She cooks it and feeds it to the heron. He enjoys it. She buys it along with two sliced pans which she gives to the crows and seagulls. She also hand feeds a blackbird, chicken rind!

Sometimes Betty has to rush off to the Church or sometimes a dog comes along who will scare the heron. So Betty tells the heron "go up to the bridge and I'll meet you there", and the heron flies off and waits for her under the bridge. Betty then throws the chicken down to the heron from the bridge.

Betty loves birds especially the heron.

*By Lily Rafferty (a true story)*

Fast flying animals

Long legged creatures

Ankles where their knees should be

Monstrous nests and

Interesting pink feathers

Number of eggs - one rarely two

Great long necks and

Orange eyes that light up the night.

*By Orla O'Keeffe & Mia Salmon O'Toole*



## **Our Day at Tallaght Basketball Arena**

*Laura Cahill, 6th Class*

On Tuesday 22nd May we travelled to the Basketball Arena in Tallaght. We were all nervous and excited at the same time. There were fifteen of us, five from each class. When we got there we started to practise our lay-ups. We all encouraged each other even if we didn't get the ball in the basket.

We started our first match at 10.30am. Each quarter lasted for five minutes. I didn't play the first match. We didn't win but we tried our best. It was the same for the second match but I got to play. In the third match we got an excellent result, the score was 28 – 0. The fourth match was to see who would come third in the tournament. We won that match 21 – 5 so we went home to the school with third place.

I think everyone was happy with us. It was a really good experience which I hope I can do again.

Thank you to Anna and Mrs. Lyons for all the help coaching us as we couldn't have done it without them.

## **Our Animal Jokes**

**By Jodie Gunn & Kayleigh Horan**

Q. Why did Mozart get rid of his chickens?      Because they kept saying bach,bach,bach.

Q. What kind of suit does a duck wear?      A dux-edo

Q. What will you get when you cross a dinosaur with a pig?      Jurrasic Pork

Q. What do you call a rabbit that is owned by a beetle?      A bug's bunny

Q What do you call an alligator who goes undercover?      An investing-ator.

## **Tadhg's Auntie**

*Tadhg Treacy, age 5, Miss Catterson's Junior Infants*

My name is Tadhg Treacy. This is a photo of me and my Auntie Orla. She is a principal in the Loreto school in Sudan.

She talked to my class about her school. The children there have no chairs or tables, they sit under a tree to learn.

They have very little food. They have two goats and a cow.

Orla is home on holidays for the summer. I gave her courgettes that I planted.



We started a **Junior Achievement** programme called 'Our City' in the past few weeks. Our volunteer, Barry, teaches us a lesson every Wednesday.

We learn lots of things every week. We have learnt about planning zones and blueprints. We even built our own buildings and gave our businesses cool names. In another lesson we had to organise our own restaurant selecting type of food, staff and what we wanted to call them.

There were great names like Perfect Pizza, The Sushi Stop and lots more. Mostly everyone chose James as their chef because he was the only one that could cook and what would a restaurant be without a chef!

We're really looking forward to our next lesson.

by Amy Maguire and Sarah Dempsey (Ms. Travers' 4th Class)

### **The Puppet Theatre**      **By Ms. Mc Keon's Jnr Infants**

Junior Infants went to the Lambert Puppet Theatre on Wednesday 23rd May. We saw two shows. The first show was about a bird who sang a song "Today I feel so happy, so happy, so happy.....".

The main show was called Jack and the Beanstalk. We thought it was very funny and good. Parts of it were a little scary, like when the beanstalk began to grow. It looked very real and we wondered how they made it.

The giant was friendly but noisy. We laughed a lot, particularly when Daisy the cow ate all the bells and string!

We went back to school on the bus and we all got a treat for being so good.



**On 12th of June, 4th Class had their Sports Day. We made tie-dyed t-shirts in all of the team colours last week in preparation. They looked brilliant!**

**At half past nine our parents came to watch the races which were: dress up race, obstacle race, potato and spoon race and the relay race. The dress up race was very funny. After break we went outside to play rounders and unihoc and then after big break we had a basketball tournament. The blue team tied with yellow. Sadly our day was over and even though we were very tired, we had lots of fun!**

**We will never forget this day!!!**

**by Tara Allen and Emily Riddell**



On the 4th of May 2012, **P.J Cunningham** came into our school to see 5th class and tell us all about GAA. P.J was a coach up in Bray Emmet's so he had lots of stories to tell us like back in 1884 (when Bray Emmet's was founded) how it was quicker to go from Bray to Galway rather than Bray to Baltinglass because you would have to have travelled over the Wicklow mountains. He also told us what GAA stood for "Gaelic Athletic Association".

P.J spoke a lot about Bray Emmet's GAA club. He was telling us what a great club it is and how doing a sport like hurling or Gaelic can help you keep healthy instead of just sitting in all day watching TV. P.J told us all about Bray Emmet's first match up in the Vevay in 1884. He said he was proud of his children for playing GAA. His daughter won the Wicklow best player award at the age of 16.

On Wednesday the 9th of May girls in 5th class took part in a sponsored run around the yard. They paired up and ran together. We did the sponsored run because we are raising money for Michael Tiron. He is going for an operation so he can walk. P.J gave us €40 euro and asked us to do something to earn the donation. That's why we ran.

**By Emily Mc Kenna. (Rang a Cúig)**

### **Shadowing Project**

For the Shadowing book we got split up into two groups at one o'clock each day. It was a very fun activity to do and if you are wondering why we got split into two groups it was because we each read a different book. Half of the people read a "Butterfly Heart" and the other half read "A Greyhound of a Girl". We would read a chapter or two each night and we had the book for a week.

The next day all of us that had the same book would meet up in a classroom and talk about what we had read. Then we would read some more of the book together and after a few pages we would stop and ask one another questions like "have you got any predictions?" and "what did you find interesting?" or "did we understand it?". If we didn't we would go over it and try to understand it better. After that we would go back up to the classroom and we would explain to the teachers about what we did. So that is what three fifth classes did.

**Chloe Mc Keon 5th class**

### **4th class plays**

**Fourth classes are doing plays and mimes with our drama teacher Mrs. Keogh. The play Ms. Travers' class is doing is called 'Tír na nÓg'.**



**We are working very hard on this play. We are having a great time adding in new parts and actions to our play. We are organizing our costumes and trying to look as realistic as we can.**

**The mimes are really funny and have taken a lot of thought to come up with. The mime girls have to wear all black and white masks so you can't see their faces.**

**We really hope you enjoy our plays and mimes, which we will perform for the parents on the 22nd of June.**

**By Kaylagh Corish and Rachel Kelly**



## **Irish Aid**

**On the 12th June Ms. Coyne's 6th class went to the Irish Aid Workshop.**

**At the workshop the first thing we did was watch a film about a girl in Malawi called Memory. The film was called "a day in the in the life of Memory". The point of the film was to see the differences and similarities between two people on different sides of the world. When the film was over and we had discussed it we found that there were actually similarities between our lives and her life. We then moved on to the next workshop.**

**The lady explained what Irish Aid actually does and how it helps families in impoverished countries. She told us what countries they help. She also showed us where the funds go and how it helps the people. Then it was on to the last workshop.**

**The last workshop was all about the culture of the people, what instruments they play, what they do for celebrations, and the songs they sing. The best thing about this workshop was when we got to play traditional drums.**

**The drums were really fun and were definitely my highlight of the trip.**

**The Irish Aid trip was really enjoyable. We all learned so much. And we all agreed that it was very interesting.**

**By Eimear Fox**

## **Wicklow Sports Day 2012**

**On Wednesday the 6th of June, eleven girls from 2nd to 6th Class represented St. Patrick's Loreto Bray at Charlesland Recreation Park for the Wicklow Sports. The weather was typical of an Irish summer; bright and sunny in the morning but as the finals began it started to rain heavily. Mr O'Doherty saved the day with his big blue and yellow umbrella! The ground got very muddy and slippery and we ended up coming home soaked and mucky!**

**The girls who travelled on the day were Aoife Temple, Kate Priestly Keogh, Enara Soden, Maryanne Ahern, Carla Lennon, Emma Mason, Niamh Martin, Alice Fitzgerald, Jane Butler, Charlotte Fitzgerald and Tiana Garvey. Almost all of the entrants qualified for the final race in their category. In the end we brought home four medals; one gold, one silver and two bronze. Every one of the girls did amazingly and supported each other all day.**

**A big thank you to Ms. O'Carroll, Ms. McKeon, Mr. O'Doherty and Paula for all their help and hard work. A special congratulations to the athletes themselves for doing so well and representing their school with pride.**

**By Alice Fitzgerald, Jane Butler and Emma Mason.**

On Thursday the 7th of June Sr. Orla came to our school and told us what was happening in South Sudan. Sr. Orla told us how they live and shocking stories, like one about a seven year old who has to look after her little brother. She told us that when a man wants to get married to a lady he has to give her family enough cows to get married to her. Every year the men have a milk drinking competition to see who can drink the most milk and it could go on for four months. Sr. Orla told us that the children have to drink dirty water and their tummies sometimes swell up. They have no electricity and very few clothes. They are also very welcoming people and really want to learn. We are trying to raise money to build a new primary school for them.

By Shana Phelan.

On Friday the 1st of June. All the of sixth class went on our **school tour** to UCD's sports centre. We arrived on the bus at 10:00am and we were greeted by our leader for the day.

We started straight away with sock flinging. We had our first break and then went back out to do more fun activities. We did KMX karts, flickers, zorbing, rock climbing, obstacle courses, eliminator, human football and the spider tower. After the activities had finished we were all exhausted!

Our favourite activity was zorbing. Zorbing is where you get into a big inflatable ball and you are pushed down a slide!!



The whole of sixth class would like to thank our teachers for the wonderful and exciting tour they brought us on. We had an amazing day and we will never forget our last school tour with St.Patricks!

By Lauren Quinn and Eimear Martin 6th class.

## OUR SCHOOL TOUR TO DUBLIN ZOO

By: Órla O'Callaghan

On the day of our school tour, the three third classes walked up to Church Road to get the bus to Dublin Zoo. Our teachers split us into groups of four so we stayed with those people in the zoo. On the bus it seemed like it would take forever but eventually we arrived. As soon as I went through the entrance, we started to walk around and saw lots of animals. For the first part of the zoo, I saw lots of baby animals such as baby moorhens.

I found it very funny when the otter jumped up on the glass at my friend. It was then time to go to the African Plains where we saw lots more animals. My favourite animal by far was the bongo. After we saw some more of the animals, it was time to eat. We had a lovely picnic for lunch.

Then we went to the city farm and saw pigs, pygmy goats, rabbits, cows and cocks. In the reptile house we saw snakes, turtles and tarantulas. After that , we had a tour where we learned about the elephants. We saw them get a shower and then someone spotted a wild deer in with the elephants. One of the keepers said that it was a black buck.

Back at the African plains we saw probably the oldest lioness in Europe. She was twenty five years old. Then sadly it was time to go home. I had a great day at the zoo.