



Parent Association Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As this is the first newsletter of the new school year I would like to welcome all the new parents and Junior Infants who became part of our school this September and also a 'welcome back' to the rest of our families.

The Parent Association AGM took place at the end of September and it was a very informative evening as our Principal Mr. O'Doherty gave us a glimpse of the issues that arise in school life as well as what the future may hold regarding finances for our school. Mr. O'Doherty also passed on some very helpful tips on the value of encouraging your child to read and enjoy the novel, as well as how to better encourage the reluctant reader. On the night I also welcomed all the parents who have now become members of the committee for the year and I am delighted to say that the committee now has 32 members. This is my last year as Chairperson and also for the vice- Chair Suresh. Anne Kelly is our new secretary and Kathryn Hickson is our new Treasurer. Many thanks to our outgoing officers Ellen O'Callaghan and Eileen Hannon, who I am glad to say, remain committee members. I would also like to wish all the retirees from the committee all the very best for their future and to thank them most sincerely for all their hard work and commitment to the Parent Association over the years.

You will all have received a letter from the principal letting us know how well the school did from the book fair. It was a great success and a huge thank you to all the committee members who gave so much of their time over the duration of the fair.

Preparations are well advanced for our Annual Family Christmas Carol Evening on Thursday 13th December at 7.00pm in the grounds of the school. As ever it promises to be a very entertaining evening and a lovely way to start off the Christmas season. After we have sung all the Carol's we will all retire to the P.E. hall for a welcome Cuppa for the parents and some drinks and sweets for the children. I look forward to seeing you all there.

The committee are also putting the final touches to our hampers which we raffle every Christmas in aid of Charity. The nominee this year is a past pupil of the school – Stuart Brierton who is representing Ireland in the Special Olympics World Winter Games in South Korea at the end of January 2013. We wish Stuart all the best as he starts his Olympic Journey. There will be a hamper for each year and two for Junior and Senior Infants classes. We hope the children will bring in one or two euro for this raffle. We are also putting together two hampers to be donated to the Five Loaves Kitchen on your behalf. All this will take place on the same day as Mr. Claus makes his visit to the school and I am told he has some lovely little treats for everyone!

Finally, on behalf of all the committee members of the parent association, may I wish you and yours a very happy and peaceful Christmas and the very best of fortune for 2013.

Best Wishes,
Carol Whelan
Chairperson





Bully Proof

**By
Rebekah Dooley Adamson,
Rang a Sé**

Pushing, Pulling,
Calling you names
Stealing, leading,
They think it's a game.
Nerdy this,
Geeky that
Spoilt brat,
Very fat
"I WANT THAT, GIVE IT
TO ME NOW!"
you say " No!"
And there starts the row.
Out in yard
You want to play,
But when you ask,
They push you away.
"You can't play!"
"You're not cool!"
And that's what happens
when you get bullied in
school

Fidget Feet

**By Megan Haughton Martinez & Ruby McCarthy
3rd Class Ms Breathnach**

Earlier in the year (in October) a girl called Cat from Fidget Feet Theatre Group came to our school and taught us a dance from a play called Catch me.

Fidget Feet is an Aerial Dance Theatre Group and they were doing a play called Catch Me in the Mermaid Theatre. The play was based on the story of Little Red Riding Hood. We liked it because it was a nice experience and it was fun. We also liked it because we danced with partners.

One person was the wolf and the other was Little Red Riding Hood. Little Red Riding Hood laughed at the wolf because he was wearing a funny dress. The wolf then started to cry so Little Red Riding Hood danced to cheer him up. Then the two of them had a dance off.

I went to see the play and it was really funny. The whole play had no speech in it. A couple of dances where on ropes but we did not do them in school.

Lucy's Special Pony

By Holly Sexton

3rd Class Ms. Breathnach – Write-A-Book Project

In my story there is a little girl called Lucy. She has brown hair and blue eyes. She has no brothers or sisters. She lives with her mother but her father was away at war. This is how the story starts...

Chapter One

One day, Lucy woke up and went downstairs in her dressing gown. She had breakfast and a glass of milk. Lucy went back upstairs and got dressed. It was a sunny day. She went to ask her mother if she could go and pick some strawberries but her mother was asleep. So she went out with no permission to pick some strawberries.

Chapter Two

Lucy walked over to the little field near the woods. It was only two minutes away. She crept over the fence and into the field. There were no strawberries to be found anywhere. After a few minutes looking around Lucy noticed a big dark shadow coming towards here. She did not know what it was. It got closer and closer. Then she realised that it was a pony. She petted the pony. It bent down so Lucy could get on to it.

To be continued



LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL.

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that it's that time of year again but when I hear the strains of Infant voices singing about sleepy shepherds and whoops-a-daisy angels I know we must be firmly on the countdown to Christmas. While it is wonderful to witness the excitement and joy that the children experience in relation to all things Christmas, they are also learning about Advent and preparing in a different way for the celebration of Christmas. Essentially, the key message of Advent and Christmas is one of hope and that is something worth nurturing in these challenging times.

From an educational perspective, that sense of hope has been enhanced by a budget that is relatively benign to frontline primary school services. Mercifully, there will be no increase in the pupil teacher ratio which means that we will be able to maintain class sizes at their current levels. Nationally, there will be no further reduction in the numbers of SNA's or resource teachers which is just as well as the current numbers are insufficient to meet the needs of those children who require their support. While there will be a further reduction in the capitation grant paid to schools to meet their running costs, it is not as significant as it has been in other years. So, all in all, it could have been a lot worse.

There is sustained hope too to be gleaned from the levels of enthusiasm and engagement displayed by the children of the school for all the activities in which they are involved. We will be giving new expression to that engagement with the formation of our first Student Council in the New Year. I will keep you informed in the coming months with regard to its development.

Again, it is appropriate to thank you most sincerely for your continued support and for the many and varied ways in which you contribute to life in St. Patrick's. We look forward to continuing to work with you to provide what's best for your children.

I hope to see many of you in the coming weeks, whether it be at Nativity plays, Carol Evenings, etc. As I said last year, it is a very special time in the lives of children and it is a privilege for us to share in their joy and excitement.

With every good wish for a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year,

Yours sincerely,

Brian O'Doherty
Principal

GREENSCHOOLS

Hi Everybody!!!

Your fantastic Greenschools committee is all fired up for another year of helping to make our school as green as it can be. Our aim for this year is to reduce the waste and energy we cause in the school by helping our classmates to reduce wrappings in our lunchboxes, using our face cloths after using the bathroom, remembering to turn off the lights in our classrooms and helping our classmates make sure that all the right waste goes in the right bin in our classrooms. We plan to have our Healthy Habits week again in April next year and bring awareness to our community again in the St Patricks Day Parade.

Please talk to any of us if you need any Green questions answers and keep your eye out for our super new notice boards coming soon around the school which will keep you up to date with hints and tips about keeping **St Patricks Green**





WHALES



Whales are very big mammals that live in the ocean.

Did you know?

Sound travels four times faster in the water than it does in the air.

The largest known whale to ever exist is the blue whale.

It has been known to have grown to the length of 110-115 ft and weighed over 1130 tones.

Long ago whale bones were made into jewellery.

Whales spend lots of their time underwater but they need air to breathe.

Some toothed whales need pointed teeth to catch fish.

DANGERS

People hunt whales because you can get blubber from them.

It can be used for making candles, face cream and lipstick.

Whales often breach; fling themselves out of the water and land with a noisy splash.

Nobody knows why the humpback whale sings ; maybe to court a mate or to keep in touch with others in a group.

A new born blue whale can weigh 3000 kg.

A baby whale as in the Humpback baby at birth is 8 metres long.



Researched by Hannah White & Georgia Kinlan



DERRY

By
Victoria Nevin

On Friday the 20th of September I went to Derry with my Gran, Grandad and Mum to participate in a Feis in Derry City. It took 3 hours to get there. The journey was long and boring. I was excited when I saw Derry. It is on the river Foyle and you have to go across a long bridge to get to it. There is a wall around it and we had to drive through a gate in the wall to get to the hotel.

There are murals on houses outside the walls. One said "You are now entering free Derry".

My Gran said that it is very famous. It was done when there was a war in Northern Ireland in the last century. We stayed in the Tower Hotel.

When we got up in the morning I put on my wig and make up and my dancing school tracksuit and then set off for the Derry feis which was just down the road in the Millennium Forum. It was a big feis with dancers from all over Ireland taking part. We had to be there for 8 o'clock even though we were not dancing until 9:30. I was wearing my tracksuit because I had to warm up and practice my steps. Then I had to get into my dress and go back stage. There were 54 in my group. I was number 52. The first dance was the hornpipe. After I danced I had to get out of my dress and practise my reel. When everyone else was finished their dance it was my turn again. I got back into my dress and went back on stage. I was on stage for about 3 minutes for both dances.

I was uncomfortable in my dress as it is getting too small for me. My Gran decided that it was time for a new dress and as there is a very good dress maker in Derry we asked her if she would measure me for a new one. I was measured on the following morning and I got my new dress a week later. I will wear my new dress at the World Championships in Boston next March.

I was very happy with my performance at the Feis and I will always remember Derry when I bought my beautiful new dress.

Junior Infants

Christmas update

The 6 Junior Infant classes have had a great start and are beginning to settle into school life. We are well on our way to becoming independent learners. Some of our favourite activities so far have been painting, singing, nature hunts, exploring our senses; tasting in particular and cutting and sticking.

We really enjoyed the Book Fair and everyone loves the Jolly Phonics programme.

The teachers are really grateful to the parents for supporting their child's learning at home and hope parents are getting the same enjoyment from the shared learning experience.

Our next big milestone is the Christmas Nativity play. We have been working really hard to learn our lines at home and we hope you can come and watch us perform!

Winter Fun

By: Larina Yu, Hannah Moran and Julia Jedrak

Winter, winter come and play,

Building snowmen every day,

Throwing snowballs all around,

Watching snowflakes drift to the ground.

Winter fun all around

Let's hope the sun does not come out.

Winter, winter please don't go

The world is not fun without snow.

The Fearless Lassie

Chapter One

Katie Rose Kearney was a monster hunter. She lived in Edinburgh in Scotland. Her parents died the day after she was born. Her Nana minds her now.

Beep! Beep! Beep! "Katie Rose turn off the alarm" muttered Nana Kearney, rubbing her eyes. Katie Rose flopped out of bed and turned the alarm clock. She swung open her wardrobe and took out a glittery pair of heels and the most beautiful dress you have ever seen.

She set off to school. When she got there her friends Eva, Siobhán and Holly were waiting for her. "Sup Katie Rose?" said Eva. "Hey Eva" replied Katie Rose quietly. "Do you hear that?" Siobhán said in an eerie voice. They could hear a growling noise. "Back in a minute!" said Katie Rose in a rush. Off she went. There was a huge monster that had fallen asleep at the front of the school. Katie Rose took out a hair dryer and sucked it up lickety split!

To be continued.....

By Eimear Timmons

(3rd Class – Ms Breathnach – Write-A-Book Project)



Croke Park

On the 28/4/2012 I played in Croke Park, it was one of the best days of my life.

Every year my Nanny and Grandad go to Croke Park to watch the Wicklow and Fermanagh match because my Nanny is from Fermanagh and my granddad is from Wicklow. My granddad loves Gaelic football so when he found out I was playing in Croke Park he was so happy. To get to Croke Park my family and I got on the 145 bus to Dublin and then walked to Croke Park.

On arrival, we went to our seats and then we were called onto the pitch. I was really excited. We had to go through a gate to get onto the pitch then we had to go through another gate under the stadium and finally into a dressing room where we got ready. When we were ready we left the dressing room to let the other team get ready.

When the other team were ready we went through a door and we met the Wicklow County board Chairperson who told us we were going to run up the tunnel and out on to the Croke Park pitch. At that point I was the happiest person on earth. I was first in line for Bray Emmet's to run on to the Croke Park pitch, it was an honour. My position in the match was mid field with Leah Carroll.

It was an exhibition match so I don't know who won. We had a great day and it was one of the best experiences of my life.

by Emily Deveney, (Rang a Sé)

FANTASTIC MALTESER CAKE

By Faye Whelan (3rd Class)

This is a tasty snack to make over the Christmas holidays for all the family.

Aim:

To be a delicious fantastic cake and to look yummy.

Method:

1. Put the chocolate in the mixing bowl and put it in the microwave for 2mins.
2. While that is in crush up the biscuits.
3. Get the grease paper and put it in the tin cover it in butter.
4. Lay the chocolate, biscuits, Maltesers and marshmallows in the tin.
5. Push them down with the wooden spoon.
6. And pop it in the fridge for 2 hrs.
7. When the cake comes out put on the caramel.
8. Place the chocolate fingers around the sides.
9. Decorate with more Maltesers and marshmallows.
10. ENJOY!!!!

Requirements:

Milk chocolate/chocolate fingers
Biscuits
Caramel
Maltesers
Mixing bowl
Butter
Marshmallows
Tin
Wooden spoon
Grease paper
Fridge/Microwave



Rain Falling Up!



The girls who took part from Ms. Finlay's, Mrs. Martin's and Ms. Catterson's classes.

Our school was involved in a musical project called 'Rain Falling Up'. The three 4th classes took part. On the day we had to be at the Dart station at 7:45 am. We were tired because we got up very early. We were all dressed in black. Then we got on the Dart at 7:55 am. We had to sit with our partners. It took about an hour. We got off at Tara Street. We walked for ten minutes to the Convention Centre.

When we got there we were brought into a big room. There were lots of other schools there. We had four tables to ourselves. Each of them had 'St Patrick's Loreto Bray' written on them. We got our 'Rain Falling Up' t-shirts. They were red and black. We went for our first rehearsal. We had to climb 16 flights of stairs! It took forever.

When we got to the auditorium, we rehearsed our songs. Then we went back down 16 flights of stairs. It took double forever and a little longer! When we got to the bottom we sat down. Our teacher was talking to a woman who told her to round us up and take us up the 16 flights of stairs again!! Our teacher said " Give them 5 minutes".

After 5 minutes we went back up the stairs and we performed. Mr. O' Doherty, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Lyons and Ms. Dunleavy came. So did all our Mums and Dads. We did a terrific job. We really enjoyed being involved.

By Disha and Eleanor, (4th Class.)

GREENSCHOOLS

Colourful and Cool Paper Chains for your Green Christmas

You will need any old or used Magazines or Comics, a scissors (please ask an adult to help you) and some craft glue. Cut up your paper in 20cm x 2cm strips and apply the glue to one end of the 1st strip. Fold the strip over and press the glued bit onto the end of the same strip to form a loop. Place the next strip through the loop gluing one end and sticking it to the other. Continue these loops until you form the paper chain. If you have any problems please ask the Greenschool Committee in your class as we will be making these at more at our next meeting !

When it's Christmas and you're playing
with toys

It's lots of fun for girls and boys
But what about the consequences

Of not recycling the wrapping paper
from your presents

When its Christmas and you're so full of
glee

Remember to recycle -you're saving a
tree.

Shauna Carter 5th Class



Seo Faisean

By
Emily Dobos & Amy Brien

Ms. O'Dwyer's 2nd class did a "seo faisean "a fashion show 'as Gaeilge!"

We had to get into friendship groups and it was great fun because we had to choreograph our own routines for the stage.

We were allowed wear our own clothes and then we had to describe them for example "Is mise Amy, tá mé ag caitheamh t-léine bán,briste gearr agus ritheoga dubh. Tá bróga bán-dearg ar mo chosa. Féach ar mo fáinní cluasa,Tá siad go h-álainn!

Duirt Emily "Is mise Emily. Tá mé ag caitheamh gúna corcra ,ritheoga dubh agus bu-ataisí dubh . Féach ar mo bhan-da gruaig ,tá sé go h-álainn.

Bhí spórt agus spraoi againn.

Dia de los Muertes

Mira Little Paso
& Katie Byrne

In October 2nd class learned about how they celebrate Halloween in Mexico.

At Halloween Mexicans decorate their loved ones graves with flowers. They make special altars and leave out the dead person's favourite food and drinks. This is because they believe the dead rise from their graves for one night.They also dress up as skeletons in special costumes and face paint. It is called "The Day of the Dead" We learnt a funny song about it - Viva Calacas and made sugar skulls and really enjoyed it very much. We think Mexicans are awesome!

Dia de los Muertes!

2nd Class Debate

Ellen O'Doherty
& Erica Brierton

In November our class had a few debates. The motions were "Computer games are unhealthy for children", "Homework should be banned "and "Children should not have to wear school uniforms". We really enjoyed it and hope we do it again. Our team felt schools should have uniforms because if someone wore something that a different person didn't like they might get insulted. We thought too much computer time is bad because it can be addictive. Another team thought homework was important because your parents can see what you're doing in school but lots of people thought that it should be banned!

President of Ireland Election

By
Lucy Hickson,Julie O'Dwyer,
Jess Mortell & Aoife Carter

Everyone made up a speech on why they should be elected President of Ireland in Ms O'Dwyer's class. It was great fun for all the girls in the class.We all had to come up with three ideas for making Ireland a better place. Some of our ideas were; having more parks, more hospitals and schools, helping the homeless, creating jobs, I Pads for secondary schools, helping people make good choices, and that people should only be able to drink five alcoholic drinks at a time.

Ireland may be in a recession but the future looks brighter if we will be the future presidents.

Snowflakes

Snowflakes fall from to and fro.
They gently fall on our noses.
White as clouds on a winter day .
Glistening in the winter sun.
Different shapes and sizes coming every day.
Falling onto big high houses to make them look like Christmas cakes.
Slowly, slowly gone away ,
Bye bye snowflakes melt away.

By Emma Coupe & Lydia Silalahi