



Parent Association Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I can hardly believe that the second term of school life is coming to an end. Our 6th Class girls are busy getting ready for Confirmation in April followed by 1st Holy Communions in May. It has been a busy few months for the Parent Association also. As always the activities and fundraisers that we have completed have been greatly supported by you the parents, and this does make a difference, and I know that all our efforts are greatly appreciated by the school. Once again, we had a big turnout for the Family Christmas Carol Evening, the weather even behaved that night. The visit from Santa was enjoyed by all as were the hampers which were raffled on the day. The Parent Association donated three Hampers to the Five Loaves Kitchen and Drop In Centre and they sent their grateful thanks to St. Patrick for thinking of them at Christmas. Stuart Brierton and his family also sent their thanks for the donation received from the proceeds of the raffle, and, as I am sure you all know he did Bray and Ireland proud in the World Winter Games, of the Special Olympics, in South Korea earning one Gold and two Silver medals.

Post-Christmas we had the Cake Sale. It was a fantastic success, the amount of cakes donated was phenomenal and all the children and parents really bought well on the day. Thanks also to my fellow committee members who gave so generously of their time that day, and also to all the other parents who came and helped on the day, making it a great success.

As always with fundraising, no sooner do you raise a few Euros, something pops up that will use all the funds raised! This is the case with the leaky roof areas. As this newsletter goes to print the Table Quiz will have taken place and I really hope that in my next letter to you I will be reporting a great financial success!

Future events planned are the make-over day in April/May (date to be decided), the Fun Day in May and the Sponsored Walk in June to name but a few, and I look forward to meeting with you all at some or all of these events. Watch the school bags for notes about these activities.

I would like to wish Mr. O'Doherty, Ms. Flanagan, and all the teachers and staff in St. Patricks a very Happy Easter from the Parent Association, and to extend Easter Greetings to you the Parents and to thank you for your continued support of our Association.

Best Regards

Carol Whelan

Chairperson





Music in the Classroom

By Laila Stack

On Monday, 18th of February 2013, third class went to the National Concert Hall to see a performance by the RTÉ Concert Orchestra.

It was very exciting. The orchestra was very loud but they were very good. There were lots of instruments, for example the glockenspiel, xylophone, cello, violin, trumpet and bassoon. They played different types of music like the scale and arpeggio. All the orchestra wore black.

There were also dancers who wore bright colourful dresses and they did Irish and American dancing. There was a very funny man, called Peter Sweeney, who acted like a five year old during the dance competition and he made us all laugh a lot. We had a dance party and sang lots of songs with the orchestra.

The conductor was called Gearóid Grant and he was very funny too. Whenever a member of the orchestra did a bad job or made a mistake they were sent off stage by the conductor. When the performance was over we got sweets and chocolate. So, the day went really well and I enjoyed it a lot.

The Cake Sale

By Chloe Danga and Laura Butler.
5th Class Mrs. Lyons

At the cake sale there were different types of cakes and buns. Not all of the cakes were similar, but they were all as tasty as each other! There were different flavours in all the cakes.

You could buy six buns for two euro sometimes one euro. The ladies were very kind and helpful to us all. At lunch the teachers go down and buy cakes. There were also raffle tickets to buy a beautiful cake that look so yummy.

Our wonderful principal Mr O Doherty allowed parents and guardians to bring in yum cakes and buns to our school. We fundraise for new school supplies.



National Children's Choir

Written by Shauna Carter and Amy Roy
Ms. Lyons 5th Class

Recently 5th class have been practising for the National Children's Choir. Every once in a while, we go up to St. Cronan's to practise with them and St. Patrick's, Curtlestown. When we practise in school we practise in Ms. Kelly Parker's classroom on Monday.


There are four different sets of voices in the N.C.C (National Children's Choir) Sopranos, Altos, Descants and Ostinatos. This year is the first Wicklow children's choir as we would generally perform in the Dublin's children's choir. The concert will be in Shoreline Leisure Centre, Greystones on the 2nd of May.



Dramaí Gaeilge - Mrs Lyons Rang a 5

Dia dhaoibh go léir.
Táimid í Rang a Cúig.
Mar is eol duit beimid ag deanamh Dramaí Gaeilge ar an Aoine 22 de mhí Márta.
Bhíomar sa halla ag chleachtadh. Tá cúig dramaí i rang Mrs. Lyons.
Is iad ainmneacha na dramaí: Múinteoir Dána; Lucht Leanúna; Ní dhearna mé dada; Baines agus Comórtas na Maincín.

Le
Emma Masún & Robyn Bradshaw.



On the 22nd of March, the three fifth classes will be performing their dramaí gaeilge in the P.E hall. All the plays are different and very creative. There are five people in our group. Our play is called "Bainis".

Our play is about a wedding that went wrong. The characters in our play are an ex-girlfriend, a groom, a wife, a priest and the groom's father. In the middle of the ceremony the groom's ex-girlfriend stands up and says "Stopaigí. Tá mé í ngrá le Séamus agus tá Séamus í ngrá liomsa!"

There are lots more funny and entertaining plays for all the family. All the classes in the school will be able to watch our plays. Thank you for reading this article, we will see you at the plays. Slán!

By Ellen Quinn & Sorcha Ní Mhaolmhuire.



LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

March 2013

Dear Parents,

In the December newsletter I flagged the fact that the first ever Student Council in St. Patrick's would be formed in the New Year. The elections for the Student Council took place at the end of January and all of the girls in 4th, 5th and 6th Class were eligible for nomination. Over 100 girls within those classes rose to that challenge and allowed their names to go forward for inclusion on the ballot paper which is a wonderful endorsement of their willingness to accept responsibility.

Two representatives from each of the nine classes were elected to serve on the council and they have now taken up their positions and are growing into their respective roles. The Student Council was formally inaugurated at a special ceremony in the school on 14th March. We wish the girls well in their work, expertly guided by Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Ryan, Ms. Catterson and Ms. Finlay, and we look forward to the significant contribution they will make to school life in St. Patrick's in the coming months.

On a completely different note, I'm sure most of you are aware of the recent Labour Relations Committee draft proposals for the extension of the Croke Park agreement. Much of the focus in the media has been on pay related issues but what may have gone unnoticed are some of the individual sectoral proposals that are included. One such proposal in the education sector, if passed, will have significant consequences for every child in every classroom in the country. The proposal relates to the reduction in the provision of substitute cover for specific teacher absences.

Currently, the school may appoint a substitute teacher for specific/certifiable absences to ensure the class is taught and that there is continuity of provision. The LRC proposal stipulates that schools would not have leave to appoint substitute teachers for the first day of these specific absences. Consequently, the children whose teacher is absent will be divided across the other classes meaning that they are not taught and that the classes into which they are placed are disrupted. If more than one teacher is absent on the same day, which can happen in a school of our size, the disruption becomes more significant. It is also worth noting that the majority of these absences are for only one day. I bring this to your attention only to highlight the potential impact on your child's education and to reassure you that the Board of Management is considering the proposals and their impact on the school.

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

The Student Council

A student council has been created in our school. At the council we talk about how to make the school a better place for everyone. Before we started campaigning we had lessons that included games and assemblies with Mrs. Flanagan and other classes that taught us about what a student council does.

Lots of students in classes from fourth to sixth went for student council. The first step was the campaigning for a couple of weeks. Everyone who wanted to represent their class made posters, banners stickers and much more. The second step was the speeches. Everyone made up a speech to say in front of their class.

All the students had brilliant speeches but there could only be two winners from each class. Approximately four days after the speeches we went to the junior library which had become the polling station to vote.

It was a very special day for everyone and the next day Mr.O'Doherty brought us all down to the hall to announce the result. As he called out the names we could see people trembling with excitement and hope.

The student council was a success!

Written by the representatives of Mrs. Lyons class

Saoirse Guilfoyle & Tara Allen





Write-A-Book

The process of the Write-A-Book project was long and exciting. Before the Christmas Holidays we started thinking about our plot and continued after the Christmas Holidays. Everybody's idea for their plot was completely different from anybody else's.

We started on our first chapter and got completely focused on making our own story perfect. We all read over our stories making sure nothing was wrong.

Reading other books also inspired us to think about what was going on in our stories, making sure it made sense and if there was anything unnecessary. Once we had completed our entire story, we started on our illustrations, cover and blurb.

When we all finished what was needed to be done, we started reading each other's Write-A-Book. I was surprised that we had all come up with these amazing stories and how hard everyone worked to make it just the way they wanted it.

By Adriana Paragados
5th Class Mrs. Lyons

Our trip to Dubray Bookshop!

We were very lucky to be chosen to go to Dubray Bookshop to meet the author Judi Curtin. We walked down the main Street and actually passed her out on the way, which we didn't know until she arrived and told us!!

She told us all about herself. That she was a teacher first, but that she had always wanted to write books. She started writing 'Alice next door' and from that she was hooked! She showed us an old doll that she had gotten for her seventh birthday. It was very raggedy and she had pulled all her hair out because she was annoyed she'd gotten a doll instead of books!

She also showed us the covers of her different books and the covers of her books from different countries around the world. She signed bookmarks and also gave everyone a

pencil and a Judi Curtin bookmark.

By: Ms. Catterson's Fourth Class





Music in the Classroom

*By Ciara McMahon
Ms. Breathnach's 3rd Class*

On Monday 18th of February the 3rd classes went to the National Concert Hall to see the RTE Concert Orchestra perform.

We went on a bus and we all had partners. My partner was my best friend Róisín. We had to walk up to Church Road and when we got on the bus Róisín and I saw her mum and her little sister walking by.

When we arrived at the Concert Hall, the usher told us where to sit. All the Orchestra were dressed in black. It was very exciting when we got there. The orchestra played very nice music and I really enjoyed it. Peter Sweeney was very, very funny. He had a fake doll and a toy cat and he acted like a child during the dance competition.

There were dancers and they danced to the blue tango and they did line dancing. Their dance teacher taught us the moves for the line dance so we got to join in too. We sang and danced along with the Orchestra to the Dance Party song. It was a mash-up of lots of different pop songs.

There were lots of different schools there too. The dancers also did Irish dancing and American dancing. They wore very colourful dresses. The Orchestra was very big. They played the scale and the arpeggio and it was very enjoyable. There were violins, cellos, flutes and double basses, and lots of other instruments.

We also listened to the Surprise Symphony and then the performance was over. We went back to school on the coach. It was a great day!

Playtime

**By Eleanor Carroll Hayes
Rang a Sé.**

Playtime in our school is pretty standard, girls playing skipping or with their dolls, boys playing chasing and sometimes even younger boys pretending to fight or to wrestle. Playtime at school is very similar to playtime at home.

The classic games are chasing, tip the can, skipping and much more. The game nearly everyone knows how to play is chasing. One person is on and they have to catch the other people playing.

Another version of this game is Cops and Robbers. With this game, there is one team on instead of only one person being on. The rules are simple; there's a jail and two teams, and one of the teams is the cops and the other the robbers. After the cops catch all the robbers the robbers change to cops and the cops change to robbers.

I think in our school there is more skipping in the autumn and more chasing in the summer months. I find playtime more fun in the summer because we can play basketball. In general, playtime in our school is great because you get to go outside and play or to talk with your friends.

I love playtime and I think it's great fun.

Our Student Council

**By Chloe Mc Keon
Rang a sé.**

This year we had our first student council.

We first heard about it from Mrs. Flanagan. She asked us if we thought it was a good idea and we said we did and up to the day of the election we learnt a lot about our rights and about democracy.

In our class there were eight candidates for the student council. They were Orla Egan, Sarah Byrne, Eve Brady, Victoria Dinn, Alanna Donovan, Gráinne Dowling, Megan Tuohy and Ciara Jennings. We had an election. All the candidates made great speeches which they had written all by themselves.

Polling day was on 29th January. There was a little polling station in the school. When we went in, we went to Emily and she crossed our names off. Then we went over to Orla Curtin and she stamped our papers.

The next day Mr. O' Doherty announced the names of those who had been elected to the student council. He started with fourth class and announced the names of their representatives and then he announced fifth and finally sixth.

Alanna O' Donovan and Orla Egan are our class representatives on the student council.



JUNIOR INFANT UPDATE

Junior Infants settled back into school really well after the Christmas holidays and were delighted to begin taking home their reading books. We hope parents are enjoying the reading experience as much as the children are!

We've had a fun-filled term, the highlight of which was the cake sale. Thank you so much for making the day such a success.

With the improving weather we have been getting outside a lot more and enjoying the Spring sunshine. This week we are looking forward to our activities for Seachtain na Gaeilge. Why don't you ask your child to teach you one of the songs or poems we have been learning in school!

We would like to wish you all a happy, chocolate-filled Easter and look forward to seeing you all after the holidays.

The Junior Infant team

SENIOR INFANTS AND SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

The concerts to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge got off to a great start on Monday morning with all five of our Senior Infant classes coming together in the P.E hall to perform some of their favourite Irish songs and poems.

They formed a colourful sight of green, white and gold in their specially made St. Patrick's Day hats!

The morning finished up by dancing to the Irish Reel using whatever steps came to their feet!





St. Patrick's Gaelic Football Team

The school's Gaelic football team have had a particularly productive spring. Their first outing was in an indoor tournament in Loughlinstown at the end of January. The girls were placed in a pool with teams from Greystones, Roundwood and Kilcoole. Not knowing what to expect, the girls adjust to the unusual format readily and grew stronger as the day progressed winning all of their matches. The jellies supplied by Eleanor Carroll Hayes' mum, Anne, were gratefully received and were just reward for their fine performances.



On 20th February, the girls were back in action but this time with silverware on the line. They were invited to compete in Division 2 of the Wicklow Shield tournament up in Roundwood. Again the girls found themselves placed in a pool of 4 teams with matches against St Laurence's and St. David's of Greystones and our fellow Bray school St. Fergal's.

The format was 9-a-side with no goalkeepers and only points being counted. Wins in successive matches against the Greystones teams set up a winner takes all decider against the girls of St. Fergal's. In a tight match, the girls from St. Patrick's prevailed and clinched the title with Eleanor Carroll Hayes being named player of the tournament. Sincere thanks to Mrs. Farrelly and Anna who mentored the team on the day to such good effect.

Congratulations to the team who were as follows – Grace Browne, Jane Butler, Laura Butler, Ailbhe Byrne, Alison Carroll, Leah Carroll, Eleanor Carroll Hayes, Emily Deveney, Alice Fitzgerald, Sadhbh Kavanagh, Carla Lennon, Eve Murphy, Shauna Ryan and Rachel Woods.

6th Class Debating

Before Christmas 6th class took part in a selection of debates against many schools from all over Dublin and Wicklow including, CBC Monkstown, Harold's Boys School, Dalkey and Holy Rosary Wicklow.

We debated some very interesting motions such as "Irish is a Dying Tongue" and "Homework is a Waste of Time."

We took part in six debates. We love debating because it is extremely interesting to research the many different motions and it is such a brilliant experience to be given this opportunity to debate on behalf of the school.

Aoife Donohue and Katherine McNamara , 6th class.

The Best Mom Ever !

Beautiful
Elegant
Special
Tidy

Magnificent
Organized
My mom

Easy to talk to
Very forgiving
Encouraging all the time
Really good at giving advice

You're so brilliant it's unmentionable
You're my mom and I love you very much!

By Aoife Canavan
(Ms Flack's 3rd Class)



CHAPTER 1+2 of : Battle with Cystic Fibrosis by Sarah Kavanagh (Ms Flack's 3rd Class)

Years 1 – 4

This story began in 1998 in Holles Street Hospital, Dublin when my brother Sean was born. He has blonde hair and blue eyes and weighed nine pounds eight ounces and my parents Joseph and Sandra thought that everything was ok. My Mammy has brown hair and green eyes and my Daddy has black frizzy hair and blue as the sea eyes, they are the best parents ever. He had a swollen tummy so was put into Intensive Care. When he was 2 weeks old my parents were told he had Cystic Fibrosis.

Cystic Fibrosis is a disease that causes the lungs to be clogged up with mucous. It is common in Ireland and it is created by two carriers of it. In those days they could tell if you had CF by a salty taste from your skin. He was in hospital for 6 weeks and when he got home he was always getting sick after his bottles. He was in hospital every week until he was one to check his weight. When he was 2, he played the guitar with my Grandad Dado. My Grandad has grey hair and a moustache.

He is lots of fun. He is an Elvis fan. He played a real guitar with Sean who had a pretend guitar. All Sean would say is "Can we play again Dado"! Sean is 3, still sick and loving Elvis. He started in play-school and in his school play he did an Irish dance and sang the Bob the Builder theme song. He is great fun.

Years 5 – 8

Sean is now 5 and has started Big School. At Christmas he was very sick in hospital and I was in my Mammy's tummy. He got out of hospital 2 days before Christmas. On Christmas morning he did not come down to see his Santa presents until 12.00. My parents told my family that he is not going to be that happy because he is sick. When he went back to school after Christmas he cried and cried and his teacher Miss Freeman told my Daddy to leave Sean in the classroom and after 5 minutes he was not crying anymore. Miss Freeman has dark brown hair and blue eyes. She is really nice and a great teacher.

On the 16th March I was born. I had lots of black hair & blue eyes, Sean's whole life changed. We played and had fun, Sean loved me. He loved giving me kisses and hugs. We had fights as well but that's always what brothers and sisters do.

It is Halloween 2005, Sean dressed up as a monster I dressed up as a mouse. I am 2 and Sean is 7. It is Christmas again. Sean got a present wrapped in blue paper and I got one in pink wrapping paper. I looked at what Sean got first.

He got a Ninja Turtle Annual and I got an Angelina Ballerina one from my parents. We got presents from Santa too. Sean is mostly healthy, he has to take enzymes which help him absorb food and put on weight and he takes lots of vitamins and has to do physiotherapy to help his lungs.

TABLE QUIZ DONATIONS.

The Parents Committee would like to thank the following for their generous donations towards the annual Table Quiz.

Please support these local businesses as they have supported St. Patricks.

THE HEALTH STORE	LOVE TO KNIT WOOL SHOP	GUSTO ITALIANO	GET FRESH
AUTO TRAILER PARTS	MOLLOYS COFFEE SHOP	TANSEYS	LAWLORS PHARMACY
LADBROKES	NOTIONZ	KELSO TEXTILES	SALON SELECT SERVICES
FITZMAURICES PHARMACY	BEAU PEEP	SUPERQUINN	TAYLORS CRAFT BUTCHERS
MOCCACHINO COFFEE SHOP	O'BRIENS FINE WINES	LADIES WORKOUT EXPRESS	CURVES
DANNYS HAIR SALON	LABELLE	CONTOUR	McDONALDS
BOOTS	THANK YOU.		SHORELINE