



# Parent Association Newsletter



## A Letter From The Chairperson

Dear Parents/Guardians

At the end of August a new school year started and we have had a busy first term. As the doors opened for the junior infants to start the next stage of their lives members of the outgoing committee were on hand with tea and tissues for the new parents.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome to all new pupils and parents.

At the beginning of October the A.G.M. of our Parent Association was held. Alva O'Sullivan spoke to us about nutrition and how to encourage our children to get their "5 a day" and exercise on a regular basis. With the current increase of childhood obesity in Ireland the talk was very informative. Alva had a number of interesting lunch box ideas to try. Check out her facebook page OSC Consulting, where she posts easy and tasty family friendly meals. She certainly gave me plenty food for thought.

Also as a result of the A.G.M. we now have a new Parent Association and is the largest to date. There are 38 members of the Committee and I would especially like to welcome all the new members and look forward to working with them.

Having fulfilled their two year term of office Carol Whelan (Chair) and Suresh Mariyappa (Vice Chair) stepped down. I would like to thank them both most sincerely on behalf of the Parent Association for all the great work, time and effort they gave on behalf of the Association, and I am glad to say that Suresh is remaining on the committee. As Carol's daughter has moved on to secondary school she has left and I wish her best of luck in all her new endeavours.

My name is Emma Forde and I am the new Chairperson of the Parent Association. I look forward to continuing the hard work of my predecessors.

The new vice chair is Emma Crotty. The Treasurer, Kathryn Hickson and Secretary, Anne Kelly will remain in office for another year.

We have set up a FACEBOOK page and I would encourage all parents to become members. The page is called St. Patricks Bray Parents Association. We are also in the process of looking at some different events for the new-year. Once we have finalised details we will be letting you all know so watch the page!

In November we had our first fundraiser, the cake sale. With all your fabulous creations we raised an astounding €3,430 which Microsoft most generously matched. This donation went to Concern for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. Thanks to all for your donations of cakes and generosity. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who worked tirelessly your time is much appreciated.

By the time this goes to print we should have held our Family Christmas Carol Evening on Thursday 12th December.

This is a short evening of fun, where we gather in front of the school and sing all the popular carols. This year we are lead by Martina Keohane. After all the singing everybody is invited into the P.E. Hall for Tea/ Coffee for the adults, soft drinks for the children and cake for everyone. The evening starts at 7pm and lasts an hour and a half. Hopefully everyone who attended the evening enjoyed themselves.

Every year the committee put together hampers that are raffled, one for each class group from 1st to 6th Class and two for both the Junior and Senior Infant classes given their numbers. We hope the children will bring in one or two euro for this raffle. The proceeds of the raffle will go to a local charity. Along with the proceeds we are putting a bumper hamper together and this year the committee have nominated the five loaves.

The draw for the hampers will take place on the 19th December, the same day that Santa Claus and the elves will be coming in to see the children. I have been told all the good boys and girls will get a little treat.

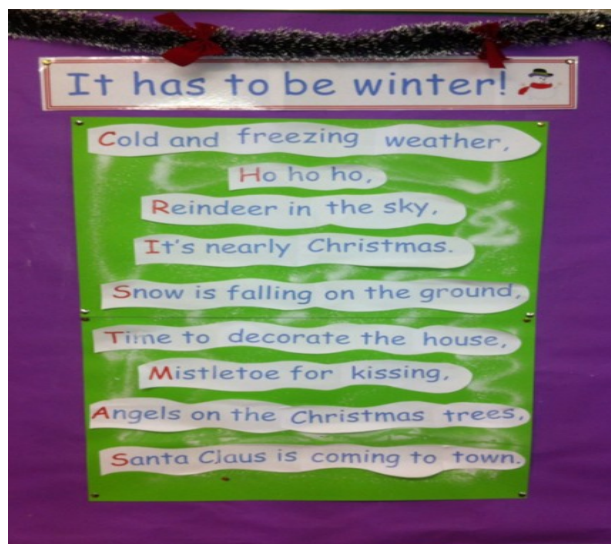
All that is left for me to do is to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 2014 on behalf of all the members of the Parents' Committee.

Best Wishes  
**Emma Forde**

MERRY CHRISTMAS

### Ms Condren's Senior Infants

We are getting very Christmassy and wintery in Senior Infants. We all worked together to make a winter poem and we discovered one very important thing; we are poets and we didn't even know it! ☺  
Look at the first letter on every line... do you notice anything special?  
Here's the poem we wrote:



Written by:

Liam, Zac, Jamie, Jack, Shaurya, Andrew, Jason, Alan, T.J, Max, Oscar, Mathew, Robert, Seán, Sofia, Niamh, Hannah, Darcie, Rebecca, Cadhla, Olivia, Danielle, Mia, Oliwia, Nil, Charlee, Aisling, Jennifer, Emelia.

### Junior Infants

It's Beginning to Feel a Lot Like Christmas!

We've had an exciting few weeks in Junior Infants. The cake sale was tremendous fun, not to mention hugely successful. We have been busy learning about pattern, the world in winter and writing with Mr. Pencil. Now there's only one thing on our minds... Christmas! Alongside all the decorations and talk of toys, we are also learning about Advent and the true meaning of Christmas. The buzz in the classrooms is palpable as we prepare for our Nativity Plays. Thank you so much for all your hard work making costumes - there are some serious designers in our midst! We hope you enjoy the experience of the performance as much as we have enjoyed getting ready for it!

May we wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



### Our Trip to the Library

On the 18th of November Mrs. Kelly Parker's class went to Bray Library. We walked down in pairs. We strolled down and entered the library. We all sat down and Mick, the librarian, explained all the sections and asked us if we needed any help. I lost my card at home but when I told them they were very helpful and gave me a new card.

We wandered around with each other, picking books, browsing and reading blurbs and in the end I chose *The Chocolate Box Girls* by Cathy Cassidy. We had a lot of fun walking up and down and choosing and looking at books.

By Casey De Sousa

Mrs. Kelly Parkers 5<sup>th</sup> class



### The Other Bray

Earlier this year a man named Steven came in and spoke to us about folklore. He told us that in the 1930's 5<sup>th</sup> class students were given one year of no homework and were asked to collect stories from their relatives and neighbours. This was all part of the story collecting project funded by the Irish government. Steven got us to write stories about the Other Bray, which is kind of like an imaginary Bray. It can have whatever you like in it such as raining chocolate Tuesdays or demon killing zombies, really whatever you like. After we finished our stories Steven got us to whisper our stories and recorded them so it sounded really creepy. A few days after an artist named Róisín came in and told us to paint shadow images of our stories. Now those pictures are being displayed in the Mermaid gallery. You can hear our stories that we recorded in the background. There are lots of fun things to do there such as making silhouette puppet, creating a mini puppet show and creating a story using the shadows on the wall. I really enjoyed the experience of learning, creating and drawing, I hope we can do something like it again.

By Alex Killian

Mrs Kelly Parkers 5<sup>th</sup> class

## A Letter From The Principal

Dear Parents,

Writing this piece for the Christmas newsletter affords me the opportunity to reflect on the events of the first term and to take stock of just how much change has taken place within a short space of time.

The Parents' Committee continues to grow which is testimony to people's willingness to get involved. The new committee is chaired by Emma Forde and I would like to wish Emma, her officers and all the members of the committee well for the coming year and I look forward to working closely with them on behalf of the school community. I must also acknowledge the huge debt of thanks owed to the outgoing Chairperson, Carol Whelan and her Vice Chairperson Suresh Mariyappa. They worked tirelessly on behalf of the Association during their two year term of office and we are indebted to them for their contribution. The new committee is endeavouring to keep parents up to date with the activities of the Parent Association by means of their new Facebook page. As I understand it, this a closed group available only to parents of children in St. Patrick's and I hope parents will find it useful.

As you will note from these pages, we have also had the election of our new Student Council. The new council is chaired by Kaylagh Corish from 6<sup>th</sup> Class and we wish Kaylagh and her fellow council members every success in their work during the year. We also assure them of our support as they endeavour to represent the views and ideas of their fellow students.

Recently, one of our longest serving members of staff, Mrs. Susan Bleakley, retired and I would like to pay tribute to her wonderful service to the school community and the children of St. Patrick's during her career. In recent years, Mrs. Bleakley worked in the area of Special Education and made a significant contribution to the development of that area.

The term has also seen other positive developments including the announcement in October's budget that 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. The other good news that was flagged in the letter about the cake sale is that the school received the Minor Works grant from the Department of Education. This is a grant for maintenance which was not due to be paid and its receipt alleviates some of the financial pressure on the school.

I must also stress our deep appreciation of the support you give us as parents. This support has been visibly demonstrated by the increased level of Voluntary Contributions received to date and the wonderful response to the cake sale in aid of Concern's Philippines Disaster Appeal. We do not take that support for granted and may we reassure you of our absolute commitment to your children. We look forward to continuing to work with you in their best interests in the New Year.

I hope to see many of you in the coming weeks, whether it be at Nativity plays Carol Evenings, etc. As I say each 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

**Christ is born**

**Holly on the tree**

**Rudolph has a red nose**

**I love Christmas**

**Santa is coming**

**Tinsel around the window**

**Mary and Joseph**

**Advent calendar**

**Star above the stable**

**By Lauren and Emily**  
Ms Nolans 1<sup>st</sup> Class

**Christmas is nice**

**Hurray it's Christmas!**

**Rudolph has a big red nose**

**It's important to us**

**Santa is coming**

**Time to celebrate**

**Mary is Jesus' Mummy**

**Always fun**

**Snowflakes are falling**

**By Paloma and Lily**  
Ms Nolans 1<sup>st</sup> Class

### Christmas Time

**Christ sleeping soundly in the stable**

**Happy children all around**

**Rudolph with his bright red nose**

**It is much too cold for ice-cream.**

**Snow falling from the heavens**

**Tinsel covering the tree**

**Merry children snuggled up in their beds**

**A big bright star shining brightly over head**

**Santa is coming - I can hardly wait!**

**By Amy Brien**  
Ms Flack's 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

**Christmas cards**

**Happy Christmas**

**Really fun!**

**I love Christmas**

**Santa!**

**Trees are decorated**

**Mince pies**

**A very good time**

**So much fun!**

**By Alicia and Kelly**  
Ms Nolans 1<sup>st</sup> Class



## Our Visit to The National Concert Hall

On the 26<sup>th</sup> November, 3<sup>rd</sup> Class went on a class trip to the National Concert Hall. We all travelled on a bus with lots of seats. We were so excited! The bus journey seemed to last for ages but it was so much fun. Eventually, we arrived at the National Concert Hall. It was beautiful! On our way to our seats, I noticed a huge chandelier on the ceiling. It was white and I couldn't stop myself from staring at it. The conductor welcomed us to the show and the orchestra started to play. They played a few melodies. Some of the songs were called The River Song, Dancing Shoes Medley, Food Glorious Food and Gilly Gilly Ossenfeffer. We sang along with all of the other schools. It was amazing to sing along with a real orchestra. We had so much fun!

By: **Hannah Cullen** (Ms Flack's 3<sup>rd</sup> Class)



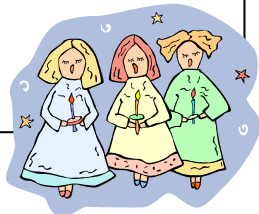
*Here we are practising our moves for the National Concert Hall!*

### **My Trip to the Concert Hall**

When I woke up this morning, I was so happy because I remembered that we were going to the Concert Hall. I packed my lunch so fast that I tripped on my banana because I was so happy. I rushed straight to school.

We went on a bus and the bus driver played One Direction. Finally we reached the Concert Hall and I rushed straight in. I was sooooo hungry but I loved it and I laughed so hard at the conductor who was such a funny man. My favourite instrument was the harp. I love it because it has such a beautiful sound and because of its shape. It's like a heart.

By **Sophie Fitzgerald**  
3<sup>rd</sup>, Ms.Coyne's



### **Dogs are Better than Cats**

I think dogs make better pets than cats. Dogs have feelings and emotions such as love, happiness, excitement and playfulness. Cats often look bored; they are sometimes hungry and in my opinion very lazy. When you bring a dog for a walk you are both exercising and bonding with them. Honestly, how many people have you seen walking their cats? I've never seen one!

Dogs miss you and love you and want to be with you always. Cats don't feel that way about their owners. Yes, to some people cats are cute but dogs help us in our everyday lives. Have you ever seen a cat guide a blind person? Guard a house? Find drugs at airports? Do tricks? No. Dogs are smart, intelligent, loving, helpful and amazing animals. I think cats only love you when you feed them. Dogs will love you unconditionally.

I don't really know for sure but do cats have feelings for their owners? I doubt it.

I hope all dogs and their owners have a great Christmas! Nollaig Shona!

By **Clodagh Ni Cheallaigh**  
6<sup>th</sup> Class



## Student Council 2013-2014



**Kaylagh Corish** – Chairperson  
**Shana Phelan** – Treasurer  
**Róisín Lambe** – Deputy Secretary  
**Chloe Murphy** – P.R Team Lead  
**Disha Suresh Kumar** – I.T. Team Lead

**Adriana Paragados** – Secretary  
**Finola McCarthy** – Deputy Chairperson  
**Laura Healy** – Deputy Treasurer  
**Sauna Carter** – Green School Liaison

**Saoirse Canavan, Maia Costello, Orla Jackson, Ita Woods, Alannah Kearns, Siobhán Black, Megan Haughton-Martinez, Kim Demery, Ruby McCarthy**

We are the Student Council members for this school year. We were all voted in by our classmates on Election Day - Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> of October, 2013. There were a total of 119 candidates running for Student Council. We had an assembly where Mr O'Doherty announced the new members and gave us our badges. Two girls from each 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class were elected on to the Student Council. Children from the other classes have an opportunity to share their views and ideas by putting them into the Suggestion Box in their class. A member of the Student Council is responsible for each of these classes.

As a Student Council we will:

- Listen to what students in our school have to say,
- Discuss their ideas and suggestions at our meetings,
- Tell everybody in the school about what we are doing.

As well as helping our school we plan to fundraise for charities. On Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> of December, we are having a "Christmas Colours Day". Everyone can wear something festive and we would hope to collect €1 per family. The proceeds will go to the Bray Five Loaves charity. We are running this with the Parents Association as they have kindly agreed to donate the proceeds of the raffle to this worthy charity too. We will work with the students, teachers, Deputy Principal, Principal and Parent Association to make St. Patrick's a better place for everyone. We are very excited and enthusiastic about the year ahead. We are grateful for the support and encouragement we receive from pupils, staff, parents and management of St. Patrick's.

***A very Happy Christmas from all on the Student Council!!!***

### Activity Maths in 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

Every Friday, Ms O'Leary visits our class for an hour and we play Maths games and activities. We play lots of different things. Sometimes, we do stations. This means that we move from group to group doing different activities. Sometimes, we do a fun worksheet, games on the whiteboard, a number game with Ms O'Leary or a partners Maths quiz with Ms Flack.

Over the last few weeks, we played a few different games. One was called 'Kings.' It is a multiplication game. To play it you have to have four players and turn over the different colours to count in different numbers. Another game we play is 'One More.' In this game, everyone has a card. There is a question and a number. A person reads the question and the girl with the right answer stands up and reads the next question. We also played a game called, 'Ones, tens and hundreds.' The teacher would start on a number. If you were a ten, you would count up ten more and if you were a hundred, you would count up one hundred more. Sometimes Ms O'Leary would ask us to count backwards. We really enjoy Maths activities - it is really fun!

**By: Ellen O'Doherty & Katie Byrne**  
Ms Flack's 3<sup>rd</sup> Class



# Science Week in 4<sup>th</sup> Class!

## November 10<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013

For Science Week we had lots of fun! Our teachers organised lots of experiments for our classes. On Monday Ms.Ryan/Mrs.Martin's class had an "Experiment Day". On Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, it was our turn and on Wednesday it was the turn of Ms. DeHora's class. There were four different stations set up in the class.

### Station 1

We looked at static electricity.

We used a biro and ripped paper. First we charged the biro by rubbing it against our jumpers. Then the pieces of paper stuck to the biro!

Second of all we needed a balloon each. We rubbed the balloons against our heads and then against our jumpers to see what would happen.

When we raised the balloons over our heads after charging them our hair stood up!



### Station 2

We used sellotape to look at our fingerprints.

We used a pencil and drew very heavily on a small piece of paper.

We had to push one of our fingers into the pencil mark. When we lifted it, we stuck a piece of sellotape on to our finger.

When we pulled it off we could see our fingerprint on the tape. We used magnifying hand lenses to check our prints for ridges, lines and cusps.



### Station 3

At this station we looked at dissolving materials. We had lots of different materials: salt, washing powder, sand, coffee, flour and sugar. We had to stir a small quantity of each into water to see which dissolved and which did not.

### Station 4

Firstly we had to work as a group to see what materials would be attracted to magnets. We had a drinks can, metal spoon, pencil, drawing pin, paper clip, aluminium foil and a nail. We all took turns in the group to test each one to see if it would "stick" to the magnet.

Secondly we made our own magnets! We all got a nail and we had to stroke it 30 times in the same direction with a magnet. We then had to see if it had become a magnet by testing it with paper clips, pins etc.



**We really enjoyed doing all the experiments and finding out more about science!**

**By: Alannah Guilfoyle and Stephanie Carter- Whelan  
Ms.Catterson's 4<sup>th</sup> Class.**

## Ms. O'Brien's Senior Infants

Our writing is so good that we were able to sound out our own stories and create our own endings to the story of Little Lumpty. He did fall off that wall again but we managed to save him in many different ways....Santa in his sleigh, jets flying by and even a trampoline!



Don't throw out that newspaper yet! We became newspaper detectives, highlighting as many words as we could read with our partner.

Yay! Christmas is coming so we're getting prepared!



**Happy Christmas from all in Miss O'Brien's Senior Infants**

## Deadly Moons

All the 5<sup>th</sup> classes participated in the Deadly moon project to help us learn about astronomy. A lady called Deirdre Kelleghan who knows a lot about astronomy came into our school to show us pictures and facts about the moon on her PowerPoint. Did you know that Jupiter has 64 moons? It has the greatest number of moons. Saturn comes next. It has about 58-63 moons. The correct amount is unknown. Deirdre showed us the different moons of our solar system like Rhea, Mimas, Tethys, IO, Enceladus and many more. They are all really cool. She then said we could pick any of the moons and draw it. Most of the class picked Rhea. It has a cute little crater called Penelope. There is a moon called IO. IO is a moon that has lava in it. Mimas is another moon. This moon is known as the 'Death Star' in Star Wars. Last but not least, there's Enceladus. Only 4 or 5 people drew this one. It has blue lines coming from the bottom. They are called 'Tiger Stripes' because it looks like a tiger scratched it. After we washed our hands (we were using oil and chalk pastels!) we went down to the P.E hall to get our photos taken with our pictures. When Deirdre left, a few days later we researched a few facts about the pictures we had drawn. We did Earth's moon and Enceladus.

You will find these pictures and descriptions on the 5<sup>th</sup> class corridor. If you are interested in moons should look them up or just look at it in the sky!

**By Disha Suresh Kumar and Jessica Doyle ,  
Mrs Kelly Parker 5<sup>th</sup> class**

## MS. DAGG'S 2<sup>ND</sup> CLASS

In second class we are practising for our nativity play. It is great fun. We look forward to performing our play for our parents. We had great fun during science week. We learned about dissolving things in water. We are also preparing for our First Penance and First Holy Communion. It is advent now and we are learning about the true meaning of Christmas.

We would like to wish everyone in St. Patrick's and their families a happy and peaceful Christmas.

**C**hrist is born

**H**appy birthday Jesus!

**R**emember Mary

**I** love angels

**S**anta is coming

**T**rees are beautiful to see

**M**erry Christmas!

**A** lovely time

**S**anta with a sack full of toys.

**By Sarah and Olivia  
Ms Nolans 1<sup>st</sup> Class**



## Christmas Poems from Ms O'Dwyer's 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

Frosty snowman shivering  
Delicious dinner gobbled up  
Christmas tree decorated  
Jolly Santa eating biscuits  
Red robin hopping  
Excited family waiting  
Red nosed Rudolph flying  
Warm fire crackling  
Smiling baby Jesus healing  
Sparkly snow falling  
Golden bells chiming

**By Ella O'Neill**

Rich dinner disappearing  
Soft snow sprinkling  
*Christmas tree glowing*  
Silver bells shining  
Graceful Rudolph prancing  
Little kids throwing snowballs  
Jolly santa giving toys  
Holy Jesus saving us

**By Abbie Hickson**



## ALL MY GREAT EXCUSES FOR NOT GOING SHOPPING

The dog will be lonely  
The supermarket will blow up,  
I have to watch tv  
And do the washing up.

Could I please stay at home?  
I promise I'll be good.  
I'll get the dog's lead right now  
And take him to the wood.

I have to do my homework,  
I have to text my friends,  
I have to write my Christmas list  
Using sparkly glittery pens.

Please, please, please  
I have to charge my phone  
I won't eat any sweets  
I have to stay at home.

*By Meadhbh Wogan Murphy  
Mrs Kelly Parker*

Warm fire blazing  
Golden bells chiming  
Soft snow falling  
Spiky hedgehog hibernating  
Magic Rudolph prancing  
Merry Santa laughing  
Holy Mary praying  
Little elf smiling  
Amazing baby Jesus loving  
us

**By Shanelle Cox Doyle**

Red robin pecking  
White snow falling  
Jolly Santa chuckling  
Spiky green holly growing  
Lovely baby Jesus is born  
Magical Christmas trees  
shining  
Golden stars glowing

**By Niamh Mahony**



## The Boy Who Lost his Face

Over the summer holidays I read 'The boy who lost his face' by Louis Sacher. Mostly it is realistic fiction but some bits are fantasy. I would recommend it for children age eleven to thirteen years old.

In the story the main character David wants to be in the cool gang with Roger, Scott and Randy so one day the boys say he has to help them steal poor old Mrs. Bayfield's snake headed cane. David plays the trick but then strange things begin to happen. All the tricks the boys play on Mrs. Bayfields are repeated in David's life.

I liked the story because it was interesting and funny. I would give it four out of five stars. I disliked the fact that the curse didn't happen to the other boys. I also liked the story because it was well written.

I would recommend this book for people who like funny books and characters that are forced to solve problems. I wouldn't recommend it for children under eleven because it has some bad language in it. I think it was a perfect read for me.

**By Caoimhe Hardiman,**  
Rang a Sé.