



Scoil Mhuire Lourdes Newsletter

Spring 2017

www.scoilmhuirelourdes.ie

Tel:0214371875

Note from the Principal

Dia daoibh go léir.
Welcome to the latest edition of the Scoil Mhuire Lourdes Newsletter. As we near the end of our second term of this school year, I'm sure you'll all agree that it has been a busy but very rewarding school year so far. Our Junior Infants have really settled into school life in Scoil Mhuire Lourdes and have become an integral part of our school community. Our sixth classes received their Confirmation on the 22nd March and are nearing the end of their primary education. They have all decided which Secondary School they will attend next year and are eagerly anticipating the next chapter of their education. All classes are progressing academically and socially. We have begun steps to receive accreditation for our 'Active School Flag' so all pupils are enjoying plenty of physical activity. Our Choir, Band and Green Team have all been busy again this year and you will read more about

each of them. I would like to thank both our Board of Management and Parents Association for their continued support. I would also like to acknowledge the enthusiasm and commitment of you the parents and I look forward to continuing to work with all the Scoil Mhuire Lourdes community to provide the best possible learning environment for your child/children.

Junior Infants

Ms. Ryan's Junior Infants were very busy on Tuesday 28th February. They learned how to make pancakes on Shrove Tuesday just before the start of the season of Lent. They had great fun making them and really enjoyed eating them too. They loved when Ms. Ryan flipped the pancakes in the air.



As a reward for all the hard work the Infant School boys are doing, we went on a trip to the cinema. The boys had a great time, going on the bus and watching the movie Sing. The Parent's Association provided treats and paid for the bus and the staff at Douglas Cinema were the perfect hosts. Every boy left smiling, it was a great day. The parents in Ms. Cremen's class got a welcome surprise in the post. All the boys wrote letters to their parents and we all posted them home. The boys loved learning about the Post Office with Ms. Stanton.



Senior Infants

Who would have thought that we would have so much fun learning in Senior Infants! In term one, we had station teaching every morning. During this time, we concentrated on our reading, writing and sounds. We have great fun making words using magnetic letters, playing rhyming games and using our own whiteboards. Everyone is making fantastic strides in their reading and writing. In Irish we sing, dance and learn rhymes as Gaeilge. We love learning through our new Interactive Irish programme, “Bua na

Cainte”! We listen to stories, play language games and even have little conversations with our friends as Gaeilge. We have a variety of different activities to practice counting numbers and to recognize patterns. We use lots of concrete materials such as lollipop sticks, cubes and blocks. We are learning a life skill in telling the time at the moment. As part of the Active School Programme, we are continuing to keep our classroom an active one. We love engaging in the GoNoodle movement breaks, Scavenger hunts and team games in PE and more recently the Operation Transformation exercise routines. Keeping fit is fantastic! Every Thursday, we construct, draw and paint some really cool things in Art but our favourite day of the week is Friday. Brendan comes to teach us GAA and we are improving our stopping, kicking, passing, throwing and catching skills all of the time. Some highlights so far this year have been the Christmas concert where our singing voices were put to the test,

the “Colours day” for Pieta House, the trip to the cinema in Douglas, visiting the Senior school for storytime, dressing up for St. Patrick’s Day and enjoying our new Infant playground! Life in Senior Infants is a fun place to be because even though we are working hard, we still have plenty of time to play and enjoy ourselves in school. We are looking forward to the months ahead where we get to build on all we have learned so far.



1st Class

It's that time of the year again when St. Patrick's Day is being celebrated not only in Ireland but throughout the world. So Ms. Walsh's first class were busy making pots of gold and treasure chests as they were hoping to entice some leprechauns to visit them!



Both first classes conducted a spring experiment to demonstrate that water moves up the stem of a flower to keep it alive. Food colouring is placed in the water and over a couple of days the petals turn the colour of the food colouring.



2nd Class

Ms. Daly's 2nd Class have been very busy since Christmas and have decided to live school life in the slow lane for five minutes a day with some mindful colouring! They have also made some lovely pasta frames and produced some excellent pieces of creative writing! Well done Ms. Daly's 2nd Class!



Mrs. Corbett's class have also been colouring mindfulness posters. Here are Lateen, Troy, David, Oisín and Patrick displaying their progress.



3rd Class

There are seven boys in our class who are in the choir- Gavin O'Brien, Daniel Rooney, Sam Ryan, Hubert Machowski, Jamie Murray, Conor Mohally and David O' Sullivan. They got to sing in a few major concerts- with Katherine Jenkins, in Sing out Loud and a concert in the City Hall.

In class we use red pens to rule our copies and we've also started joint writing. We also learned how to multiply and divide. We've started to play chess every Thursday afternoon. At the moment we are revising how chess pieces move but we will be starting an in class chess tournament soon.

Third Class also won the Riverstick Football blitz. The team included- Sam Ryan, Gavin O' Brien, David Herlihy, Ben O' Farrell, Isaac Horan, Matthew Moore, Neil O' Keeffe, Charlie Crowley, William Barry, and Mark Doyle. We played Riverstick, Ballygarvan, Carrigaline Educate

Together and Shanbally. We won all the matches! We also played in a Sciath na Scoil Hurling Blitz where we won two matches and lost two. The team included- Isaac Horan, Gavin O' Brien Ollie Lynch, Charlie Hanratty, David Herlihy, Sam Ryan, Mark Doyle, Charlie Crowley, Neil O' Keeffe, Samuel Tivy and Ben O' Farrell.

We also did our Spelling B qualifier in class. Our top five spellers were Jamie Murray, Daniel Rooney, David Herlihy, Conor McCarthy and Jasio Waszkiewicz.



Ms. O' Callaghan's 3rd class were learning about Egypt, Pharaohs and pyramids this term. Each student chose an aspect of the topic which most interested them and completed a project to find out more! The projects the pupils produced were outstanding!! There was a mix of posters, booklets and construction pieces.

Other classes visited to see the projects being presented!



Mrs. Herlihy's Class

On Friday 17th February boys in Mrs Herlihy's class visited the playground in Passage.

It was lashing rain early that morning but thankfully it cleared for us.

We travelled on the white mini-bus and after arriving at the park we ran happily into the playground.

We loved the swings, the slides and the roundabout. We climbed on the climbing frame.

After a while we visited the nearby shop and bought some treats, yum!

We boarded the white mini-bus again and returned to our school.

We loved our trip to the playground.



Jack Sparrow, the pirate from Wonderworld Productions visited our class on Friday 24th March. He wore a real pirate outfit. We did Pirate Training with Jack, played Pass the Parcel and listened to funky music. Jack Sparrow was really cool. We hope he will visit us again.



4th Class

This year in Mr. Collins' 4th class we had a very exciting and interesting few months! In class the boys have worked nonstop and gave 100% at every challenge given to them whether it was developing flying machines based on sketches by Leonardo DaVinci, carrying out surveys on other classes or even learning a new language with their Mandarin teacher, Bowen. Outside of the classroom 4th class have attended swimming lessons, hurling and futsal blitz and had a fantastic afternoon learning

about environmental awareness with 'Leave No Trace'.

With 3 months left in school there's no sign of slowing down with plenty of fun and interesting topics to be investigated across the curriculum!



We have been very busy in fourth class so far this year. Ms. Lynch's class have been baking with Ms. Wynman, making Christmas logs with Mr. Shanahan and of course attending the Primary Science Fair in Limerick with our project on volcanoes! We are enjoying our weekly swimming lessons every Monday in Bishopstown and are all improving hugely. Earlier this year we did Mandarin and Kung Fu lessons on Wednesdays with our teacher Bowen from China. Most recently, Darragh Shanahan from

our class won the school Plastic Art Competition, we read to Ms. Walsh's first class and we enjoyed yummy pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday.



5th Class

Mr. Allen's 5th class took a trip to Blackrock Castle to attend a work shop on recycling which they were learning about as part of the Erasmus+ project. They first were given a tour of the castle and our guide Caoimhín told us all about the history of the building. Next our pupils got a chance to go into the planetarium and they watched a fascinating movie on space. After lunch, Frances from Blackrock castle took our

students into one of the labs and they went through a great lesson on how water runs down mountains and into the sea. They then saw the reason why so much plastic and rubbish ends up in the oceans. Finally they were shown how to create their own filter and how important these are in cleaning our seas and rivers and providing us with clean water!



The boys of Ms. Byrne's 5th class at Scoil Mhuire Lourdes made a little bit of history recently when they visited Irving Oil – Whitegate Oil Refinery.

We were the first and only primary or secondary school ever to visit!

The boys had the privilege of having a talk and presentation on what happens on the site in the production of oil products. Afterwards we had a bus tour around the Refinery when we saw for ourselves the different areas of production.

This was all part of our whole-school Erasmus+ Project on Plastic (a bi-product of oil).

We are very grateful to Irving Oil – Whitegate Oil Refinery for their welcome and special courtesy.



to be very memorable, enhanced by our talented musicians and singers.

We are very fortunate to have weekly German classes and we recently completed projects on pets. Thanks to Fraü Drake for her continued hard work.



6th Class were very lucky to learn all about photography and took part in a photo competition.

Thank you to Adrian O'Herlihy for teaching the boys about photography and for organising the judging of the photos. Our prize winners include: Thomas Plover, David Skehan and Lucas Bogusa.



Vex Robotics



Our STEM club took part in the annual Robotics competition in CIT this January. Our team worked for months designing their VEX robot and customising it to the 2017 challenge which was known as VEX Crossover this year. The club was divided into engineering, driving and programming sub-teams, all who played vital roles in the different areas of competition on the day. This was our 3rd year in the competition, having been delighted to have been one of 10 schools originally picked to take part in the pilot competition and attending the event ever since. Our students did very well in all areas and were a credit

6th Class

Congratulations to both 6th classes on making their Confirmation recently. They have been putting in lots of preparation and the hard work has paid off, resulting in a wonderful day for all involved. Thank you to Ms. O' Connor, Mr. Coughlan and Mary Jordan for all their hard work.



Ms. O' Connor's 6th Class visited Carrigaline Daycare Centre where we played music and sang songs for the elderly. We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

We have been very busy preparing for our Ceremony of Light and Confirmation. We are all very proud of our efforts and both occasions proved



as to how they represented their school.



Choir

Following the success of their Christmas performance with none other than Katherine Jenkins, our boys choir made the trip to Killarney on March 8th to represent our school at this year's "Sing Out Loud" concert. They were excellent as always and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Well done to our choir!



SML – Active Schools flag



At the moment we are doing a lot of work to

obtain our first Active schools Flag. We have set up an Active Schools Committee with two members from each class group. We are assessing what sports equipment we have in the school, engaging in active assemblies and trying out the Operation Transformation exercise routines. We loved doing our "10@10"! We are fortunate to have a number of activities within the school that already take place including Gaelic Football, Hurling, Soccer and Athletics. We look forward to including some new sports activities during our "Active Schools Week" later in the year. Well done to all the children who always try their best to participate! Keep fit, keep active, keep happy!



Engineers Week



Lots of classes took part in Engineers Week recently whereby our students were shown the different types of engineering they encounter in everyday life. They constructed projects in a number of different areas, from Robotics (VEX) to Structural Engineering (Bridge Design), Electrical Engineering (Snap Circuits) to Mechanical Engineering (Wind Turbines). A great time was had by all and students were able to see some projects in the hall and all were very impressed!



Chess

Boys from 2nd to 6th class have been enjoying chess this year. Mr. Paul Dowdall has been teaching the beginners in 2nd and the more advanced in 4th, 5th and 6th. Mrs. O'Brien has been teaching both 3rd classes. The boys are benefiting from strategic thinking and tactical play! The advanced group recently took part in a Chess tournament against St. Mary's School.



Erasmus+

This year the focus of our Erasmus+ project is plastic, the recurring theme is "A Second Chance". As part of this project we have carried out lots of activities in our classes, the main one being a "Plastic Art Competition" for the senior school. Pupils from 1st - 6th classes were asked to use their imaginations to create something from mainly recycled plastic. We were overwhelmed with both the number and the high standard of entries! The judges had hours of deliberations in choosing the winners. A huge "WELL DONE" to all who entered.

The winners were:

1st - 3rd Class Category:
1st Prize - Neilas Mitkus,
2nd Prize- Alex McCarthy
4th - 6th Class Category:
1st Prize - Darragh Shanahan.
2nd Prize - Dylan Carrig.



Pieta House Fundraiser

On Wednesday, 22nd February, we celebrated our first 'Mental Health Awareness' Day. At Scoil Mhuire Lourdes we endeavour to cater for all needs of our school community – educational, social and mental wellbeing. As part of our awareness day pupils were invited to dress in colours and make a donation towards Pieta House.

Mindfulness activities were undertaken in all classes and will be continued to be integrated into our everyday curriculum.

We are delighted to have raised €575 from our Colours Day. A presentation was made to one of our past pupils, Aidan Roche, who is organising many charity events and fundraisers for this worthy cause. Aidan organised a charity ball in Silver Springs last month and is working to raise awareness of mental health among young people. For more information on supports offered by this organisation please visit www.pietahouse.com. A HUGE "Thank you" to all who donated.



Traffic

The continued safety of your children remain a priority for all at Scoil Mhuire Lourdes. We need your help to ensure the continued safety of all children. Please exercise extreme caution when dropping to and collecting your children at the Ballea Road Campus and at the Infant School. Please follow the traffic regulations in place and adhere to all road signs and markings.



Cyber Safety

Continuing the theme of children's safety, the Parents Association have very generously organised a Cyber Safety Day for the 6th April. There will be sessions for each class from 3rd to 6th during the day, a session for teachers after school and a parent's session in the evening. I would advise all parents to attend, irrespective of your child's age or how much you may believe you know about social media. I recently attended a course on Cyber Safety and was

greatly taken aback and appalled at the dangers 'online' for our children if they are not adequately educated and monitored. You as parents have an obligation to monitor closely your child's online activity. We wouldn't invite a complete stranger into our house/bedroom but engaging with some social media sites is akin to doing so. I can't stress enough the importance of parents attending this information evening on the 6th April.



E-mail/Text

Please ensure that we have your correct contact details (mobile number and e-mail address) to ensure that we can contact you and keep you up to date with school news.

ASD Playground

The playground in our ASD unit was completed in November and has proven to be a wonderful resource not just for the pupils in the ASD unit but for all the Infants.



Staff Inservice

The school will be closed on Thursday 4th May. The staff will be attending inservice training as part of the introduction of the New Primary Language Curriculum.

Soccer

Our five-a-side soccer team have qualified for the Cork semi-finals to be played in Turner's Cross at the end of April. They won a gripping quarter final against St Anthony's 3-2, after extra time. Well done to our panel, Shane O'Neill, Mark O'Mahony, Jamie Moore, Aidan O'Shea, Ciarán Crotty, Ryan Corkery-Delaney, Adam Costello and Ciarán Kearney. We look forward to our day out at the Cross on Wednesday 26th April.



Green Team

This year we are working towards achieving our fifth Green Flag. The theme is Biodiversity, which involves studying and looking after plants, animals and the environment. Recently boys from 6th class helped Maura and Betty from Carrigaline Tidy Towns to plant ferns near the Owenabue river. They also had a talk from John Cummins of Birdwatch Ireland about the local wildlife.

Sciath na Scol

Our Sciath na Scol Football team qualified for the final after coming through a difficult group. They played Beaumont in CIT in November and played absolutely fantastically winning 5-7 to 0-4. Well done to all our players and also our GAA coach Brendan O'Driscoll!



Upcoming Events

1. Cyber Safety:
Thursday 6th April.
2. Staff Oral
Language
Inservice-School
Closed: Thursday
4th May.
3. Family Fun Bingo:
Thursday 18th
May.
4. First Holy
Communion:
Saturday 27th May.
5. Active School
Week: 12-16th
June.
6. Soccer Marathon:
Wednesday 14th
June.
7. Sixth Class
Graduation Mass:
Tuesday 22nd June.
8. SML's Got Talent:
28th-29th June.

School Band

The school band, under the direction of Ms. Byrne, has been practicing every Thursday since October. There are over 70 boys in the band, from 5th and 6th classes. The band will perform at Cor Fhéile on Wednesday 5th April in Cork City Hall. Our instruments include tin-whistles, guitars, key-boards, drums, bongo-drums, mandolin, banjo, chime-bars, and cajon. Boys from Fourth Class will join the band after Easter.

Christmas Concert 2016

Our Christmas Concert once again proved to be a resounding success. A sincere thank you to all the parents and family members who were able to attend. Your presence made the occasion even more special for the boys. The money raised went a long way to cover the cost of the covered area for the ASD Unit. Thank you also to all those who contributed to 'Decembeard'. A total of €611 was donated to 'Friends of Marymount'.