



# Scoil Muire Bannrion



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## **A Message From Our School Principal**

*We are now drawing close to the end of what was a very busy first term in Edenderry Boys National School. On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you, the parents for your continued support and wish you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.*



# We Are Mad About Music!



## Meet our School Band!

Meet this year's new school band members Billy L., Daniel, Adam, Eoin, Billy Y., Billy C, Daragh, John, Paddy and Jason. Their debut performance will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at the upcoming Christmas Concert. They will perform their very own cover version of the songs 'Jingle Bells' and 'Winter Wonderland'. Mrs. O Neill and Ms. Blain have been helping them practice over the past few weeks! We look forward to hearing their performance!



## School Choir

The School choir have been very busy this year preparing for the Christmas season. On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December, they sang at the Town Hall for the lighting of the tree. They also sang at the carol service last Thursday night 12<sup>th</sup> December and will sing again at mass on Christmas Eve.

Next Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, the boys will be singing carols at various locations around the town. This is the 47<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that the boys school has been part of this tradition. They will begin at 6.30pm at Castlevew. They will then sing at Ofalia house, Blundell Wood, Brady's Centra and Tesco respectively.



The boys are also preparing for our upcoming Christmas Concert which will be performed for parents on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30.

The boys have worked so hard preparing the carols. A special thanks to Mrs. O Neill who has worked very hard training them. We look forward to hearing the boys again at the Christmas concert and on Christmas Eve mass at 7pm!

## Hallelujah Concert



This December, Miss Flaherty's and Mr. Foran's class took part in a very large concert called the Hallelujah Concert in City West in Dublin. This is the third year our school has taken part. Choirs of children from all parts of the country came together to sing in one large communal choir.



Hundreds of children (plus teachers!) sang many songs of different styles from Irish Ballads and Rock songs, to Pop and 'Greece' songs. They also performed alongside, professional artists, such as Tabby who appeared on the X factor and the very talented Connie Talbot who became an instant singing sensation when she became runner up on Britain's Got Talent at the very young age of six. This was a huge achievement for the children and teachers involved. The boys thoroughly enjoyed their performance and it is an experience that will stay with them for many years to come. We are already looking forward to taking part in next years concert.

## Specialist Teachers

This term a number of specialist teachers have shared their skills and knowledge with the boys:

- Edenderry's Keith McGuinness returned to share his skills and knowledge of football with all classes for a number of weeks.
- As a result of the hugely successful link up with Edenderry Rugby Club earlier this year which saw our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class students receive tag rugby training, and partake in a tag rugby blitz, rugby coach Patsy Gorman has returned to coach our 4th class students.
- In association with Offaly Sports partnership, our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class students have had the opportunity to explore the game of Futsal with Willie Doyle. Futsal it is a modified version of indoor soccer featuring a size 4 ball which has a restricted bounce so it stays on the floor. Futsal promotes skill, composure and quick-thinking and it is great fun too!! This opens up yet another sporting avenue from our expansive Physical Education curriculum for the students to explore.



We would like to thank Keith, Patsy and Willie for sharing their knowledge and skills with us. And also for their time spent training the boys.

## ICT and Literacy Workshop

On Friday November 29<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Fitzsimons 5th class students took part in an ICT and Literacy Workshop hosted by Ian Jackson. The boys were shown how to create picture

the stories using paint



## Rugby Blitz

In association with Edenderry RFC and Leinster Rugby a hugely successful 5th and 6th class tag rugby blitz was held in our school on Tuesday November 6th. 6 teams of 10 boys battled it out



for a place in the finals. Following

programme available on our computers. It's part of a six week tour of Irish schools that Ian is on and is hugely beneficial to our students as it shows yet another example of how ICT can be used in our school environment to further develop literacy skills. Keep an eye on our website for the illustrations.

some seriously competitive action and high quality rugby, Connacht (Captained by Liam Farrell) and Ireland (Captained by Alan Harte) qualified for the final. The final itself was a rip roaring contest which ended in a draw on a score line of 5 tries each but Ireland managed to score the first try in sudden death to claim the spoils. Well done to all the boys involved and a big thank you to Patsy Gorman for helping us co-ordinate the event.

## Science Week

All classes were very busy throughout science week this year (November 11<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>). This year's theme was 'Extra Ordinary Experiments'.

A huge variety of experiments were undertaken by the boys during the week. Some examples include - Fun With Marbles and Super Slime, exploring Acids and Bases, electricity circuits and Magic Ink. .



On Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, a science workshop was held in the school hall where the boys had the opportunity to showcase their experiments to parents. A big well done to all the classes for creating their experiments and a big thank you to all the parents / guardians /neighbours for coming to see our demonstration.

The boys had great fun participating in Science Week and can't wait for next year!

## Science Workshop

As part of our participation in Science Week 2013 our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class students also travelled to a science workshop held in the mobile cinema which was located in the town square on 17<sup>th</sup> November. Our students took part in various scientific experiments, watched documentaries on the big screen and participated in a question and answer session on all things science related with the professor that hosted the workshop.



For more pictures of the exhibition visit our school website.

## Crocus Project

Miss Flaherty's class are taking part in the Crocus Project this year.

This project is aimed at introducing young children to the subject of the Holocaust and raises awareness about the dangers of discrimination and prejudice. As part of this initiative the boys planted yellow crocus bulbs in memory of the one and a half million Jewish children and thousands of other children who died in the holocaust.



## Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Over the last number of weeks we have been promoting our annual Christmas Shoebox appeal. Over the years we have been hugely fortunate to have tremendous support from parents and students in promoting this hugely worthy cause. This year proved to be no exception as we had a huge donation of shoeboxes which were collected from our school by members of Team Hope Ireland. We know that these small gifts will make a massive difference in the lives of the children that are less fortunate than ourselves. We would like to say a big thank you to all the families that supported this undertaking.



## Famine in Edenderry Talk

Miss Flaherty's and Mr. Foran's classes made the short trek to Oaklands College on Friday 29th November to partake in a historical workshop which focused on the effects the Famine had in our locality. During this workshop our students listened to a presentation, presented by Dr. Ciaran Reilly, which gave them an insight into what life was like for the people of Edenderry during the Great Famine of the 1840's. The children learnt about the location of important buildings for the people of Edenderry during the famine such as the location of the work house, the soup kitchens, and the famine graveyard.



## Homework Club Harvest

The boys in the homework club also got their shovels and spades out this term when they harvested our vegetable garden in November. They picked lots of carrots and harvested a whole bag of potatoes. Here is a picture of them in



action.

## Decoration Time

Every year we take great pride in decorating our school for the festive season. This year was no exception. Our two 2<sup>nd</sup> classes worked hard decorating our beautiful Christmas trees which are on display for all to see.



## Christmas Plays

Miss Dolan's and Miss Tyrrell's class have been working hard practicing their Christmas play this year. It is called 'The Innkeepers Breakfast.' They will perform it for parents on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.



## Quiz Trials

Ms. Dolan is currently conducting trials with 3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> class students for this years credit union quiz teams. We have been very successful in recent years with our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class team reaching the All-Ireland Finals just last year. We hope for continued success this year.



## Santa Claus

Santa Claus will visit all the classes in the school on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. All the boys are looking forward to seeing him.



## Christmas Cards

Each boy had the opportunity to design and print his own professional Christmas Card.



## School Website and Twitter!

Check out our fantastic new website for updates on school events, pictures and news at [www.edenderrybns.ie](http://www.edenderrybns.ie)

School policies can be accessed (including Department of Education and Skills Procedures on Child Protection) on our website.

Don't forget you can also follow us on twitter for all the latest news at [www.twitter.com/EdenderryBNS](http://www.twitter.com/EdenderryBNS)



## School Notices!

Scoil Muire Banríon will close for the Christmas holidays at 12pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of December. We will reopen on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

### Upcoming Events:

Our Christmas Concert featuring performances from school band, and school choir will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Second class will also perform their Christmas play during the event.

### School Attendance and Absences:

The law requires parents to make sure their children receive full-time education suitable to their needs. Parents are legally responsible for making sure their children attend school regularly. If your child is absent from school for any reason, **a note must be sent into their class teacher explaining the reason for their**

absence.

**School Closures:**

Mid term 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February

Bank Holiday Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Holidays: closing Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April, reopen Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**Important Dates:**

Communion 10<sup>th</sup> May

Confirmation 31<sup>st</sup> May

All the staff of Scoil Muire Bannrion are very proud of all our students for their fantastic success and achievements this term. **We would like to wish all our students a safe and Happy Christmas and we hope for continued success in 2014.**

