



# Scoil Muire Bannrion



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Gilroy Avenue, Edenderry.

Phone 046 9731478

Email: [info@edenderrybns.ie](mailto:info@edenderrybns.ie)

Website: <http://www.edenderrybns.ie>

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

*Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),*

*Welcome to the second Spring edition of our newsletter. We are coming to the end of yet another busy term in the Boys' school! I would like to congratulate all the children on all of their achievements to date. I would like to thank too all the staff and members of the community for their ongoing support of the school and school activities. I am also delighted to announce that the Department of Education has provided funding for the upgrading of our school building and works will be carried out over the Easter Break, this is very welcome news for the school! Finally, I would like to wish all our pupils and parents a very enjoyable and safe Easter break.*

## **Competition Time!**

This term the boys have competed in many competitions and have had fantastic success in many areas. They have really done us very proud! **Well done boys** and we look forward to continued success after Easter!

## **Champions 3 Years in a Row!!!**

Both our 3rd/4th class and 5th/6th class athletics teams travelled to Tullamore to take part in the Offaly Sportshall Athletics Championship last month. We have had tremendous success in this competition claiming both 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> class and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> class titles in 2012 and 2013. Our run of success continued this year when both our 3rd/4th and 5th/6th class teams won the Offaly championships once again, making it 3 successful back to back wins.

The boys took part in 50m time trials, 4 x 50m relay and 100m time trials. While in the field events they competed in javelin, chest push, triple jump, long jump, speed bounce and vertical jump. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Frank Kilrayne for all his hard work with the boys.



## **Eight All Ireland Medal Winners**

A huge congratulations to our 8 all Ireland medal winners, Lee Pearson, Liam Farrell, Habib Goloba, Mimi Goloba, Junior Rahman, Leon Agibola, Páidí Farrell, and Edwin Agbaje. Having

secured first place in Leinster, Lee, Liam, Habib and Junior went on to claim third place in Ireland in the U-13 relay. Mimi, Junior, Leon, Paidi and Edwin were also victorious in the U-12 category. They claimed third place in the U-12 national relay.

## Skills Competition Champion!

Every year Edenderry BNS is proud to send a representative in both hurling and football to the Offaly Cumann na mBunscol competitions held during the spring. This year Adam McCraith made the long trip to Rath to take part in the hurling where he acquitted himself fantastically well.

Alan Harte travelled to Clara to compete in the football competition. Alan competed against children from 28 other schools and comfortably won the event. Alan now has the privilege of representing Offaly in a mini 7's game in Croke Park on All Ireland Semi-Final day. All the students and staff are tremendously proud of Alan's achievement and we are sure this will only be the first of many times that Alan gets to play in Croke Park.



## Football Blitz

In March, twenty of our students made the trip to Tullamore to take part in the North Offaly 7 a side gaelic football blitz organised by Offaly GAA Coaching and Development. Mr. O'Looney's team was placed in a group alongside Ballinamere, Portalington and Scoil Bhríde Tullamore and recorded two victories which saw them qualify for the where they were narrowly beaten by a very strong Portalington side. Mr Ryan's team also had three games in which they defeated Portalington but lost narrowly to the two Tullamore schools. Well done to all the lads on some excellent football.

## School Futsal Team

On Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup> our school futsal team travelled to Portarlinton to take part in a futsal blitz. St Paul's of Portlaoise and St Patrick's of Portarlinton were also taking part. Our team performed well on the day and were very unlucky to lose out to both Portarlinton and St Paul's after dominating large parts of both games. They found their shooting boots in the final group game and in the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> place play off scoring 9 goals over both games.



## Hurling News

### Hurling Blitz

On Wednesday February 5<sup>th</sup> our entire school hurling panel made the trip to St. Mary's

Community Hall to take part in an indoor hurling blitz organised by Offaly Coaching and Games Development. Both teams enjoyed four competitive games with our second team coming up short against Clara and Rahan but accounting for Scoil Bhríde Tullamore. Our first team competed excellently and won all their group games which qualified them for the final. Well done to all the boys who took part.

## Cumann na mBunscol

This year's Cumann na mBunscol hurling league is well under way. To date we have secured 2 out of 3 wins. Our first victory was against Clara in our first championship match which was played here in Edenderry GAA grounds. The boys secured a final scoreline of 14-4 to 2-4. We also secured a win at home against Ballinamere scoring 9-5 to 6 points. We were narrowly defeated by Killeigh N.S however who pipped us to the post by 2 points in the closing minutes of the game.



Well done to all the panel for an excellent performance so far. Our next game is against Scoil Eoin Phoil, Tullamore. To qualify for the North Offaly hurling final in O'Connor Park, and retain the title that we won last May, this match is a must win. Best of luck boys.

## Badminton

Well done to the members of our school badminton team, Alan Harte, Sean McMahon, Jordan Glynn and James Jones who performed brilliantly last month winning the Offaly National Schools Over 10 title in Clonaslee.



## Most Enterprising Student Award

We would like to congratulate our sixth class student, Adam McCraith who was awarded 'Most Enterprising Student' by Offaly Enterprise Board. Over the last number of years Adam has been creating various wooden ornaments that can be used as decorative pieces around the house and are ideal for gifts at anytime of the year. Adam started off with miniature hurls and has graduated to blackboard pieces cut out to different animal figures. Adam travelled to Tullamore on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March to receive the award where he also had the opportunity to demonstrate his creations. We are sure we will see many of these products on the shelves in our local shops in the not too distant future. Keep up the good work Adam.



## Engineers Week

As part of Engineers Week Miss Flaherty's 5th and 6th class visited the Town Hall on February 14<sup>th</sup> for a talk from two engineers from Offaly County Council. This was aimed at creating a positive awareness and enthusiasm for engineering as a profession. The boys learned what the job of an engineer entails. They also had a detailed discussion about the future of Edenderry from a town planning perspective.





## Brain Busters!! Credit Union Quiz



The Edenderry Credit Union held it's annual school quiz on Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup> and we enjoyed great success at the event. Two teams competed in the U13 category and two teams in the U11 category. The boys were very successful in both categories with the U11 team (consisting of Michael, Paul, Tadhg and Eamonn) finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place following a tense tie-breaker round. The U- 13 team comprising of Ross, Sai, Lee and Donal were the stars of the night as they romped to victory with an astounding score of 68/72.

As a result, they represented Edenderry Credit Union at Chapter level in Naas on 28<sup>th</sup> February. The boys narrowly missed out on a place in the All Ireland coming third place in a tie breaker. We would like to congratulate Lee, Sai, Ross and Donal on their wonderful achievement and their coach Ms. Dolan for the fantastic work in mentoring the boys.



## Green Schools News!

### Trees for Communities

This month we took part in the 'Trees for communities' initiative. This is a project run by the Native Woodland Trust aimed at getting communities to create small native woodlands in their local area. With the help of Declan Manley, the homework club planted 30 native trees (to include birch, hawthorn, alder and rowan) on our school grounds. The Green Schools Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Declan for his continued support and his invaluable contributions throughout the years.

### WOW Days are Back!

This spring, as part of our Green Schools Programme, we have re-launched our 'Walk on Wednesday.' Well done to everyone who has been making a fantastic effort to walk or cycle to school when possible on Wednesdays. We would encourage all boys to continue to make an effort this year.



### Spring Clean

This Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, we will all be getting involved in our annual spring clean. We take great pride in our school and aim to keep our beautiful school grounds and surrounding areas litter free.

## Food Dudes Programme

Our Food Dudes programme is now in full swing and we have now entered the second phase of the programme. During this phase the children are encouraged to bring in fruit and vegetables as part of their lunch. To date the children have made a terrific effort and have been rewarded with lots of cool prizes. We hope they will continue in their efforts after Easter and win lots of more great prizes!

During the previous phases of the programme (phase one) , the boys sampled a selection of fruit and vegetables over a four day period and were given prizes for their efforts. They were then required to consume a full portion of fruit and vegetable each day for 12 consecutive school days and were rewarded once again with great prizes for their efforts.

Food Dudes was originally developed by the University of Wales, Bangor, to encourage children to eat more fruit and vegetables both in school and at home. It is based on positive role models (the Food Dudes characters), repeated tasting and rewards. In pilot studies in schools in Ireland, the Programme has been shown to be effective and results long lasting across the primary age range, regardless of gender, school size, geographic and socio-economic factors. It is ultimately designed to enable children to enjoy eating healthy diets, and to create a healthy eating culture within schools.



## Communion and Confirmation

### Confirmation

As part of their preparation for Confirmation, boys in sixth class took part in the Ceremony of Light on March 22nd. Confirmation will take place on 31<sup>st</sup> May.



### Communion

The children in second class are busy preparing for their first confession which will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm. The next Do This in Memory Mass will take place this weekend, 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> April.

## Credit Union Savings Scheme

Our students are taking part in the Credit Union Savings scheme which aims to get children into the habit of saving from an early age. A member of Edenderry Credit Union attends our school every Tuesday to collect the boys savings. They are really enjoying it and hopefully they will see the importance of saving as a lifelong endeavor.

## OSPCA Visit School

The students received a talk from the Offaly Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals earlier this term. During the discussion the boys were introduced to the best practice of looking after pets in ways such as micro-chipping, grooming and feeding. They all really enjoyed it.



## Leinster Silverware Visits School

Wednesday 29th January, the silverware won by the Leinster Rugby in 2013 team visited our school. There was great excitement as the boys viewed The Amlin Challenge trophy, the RaboDirect Pro 12 trophy and the British and Irish Cup.



## Leinster Play Rugby

As part of the Leinster Rugby / IRFU Play Rugby Programme that has been introduced to primary schools Leinster rugby club community officer Patsy Gorman presented our students with rugby balls, tag rugby tags, cones and bibs to aid in the school wide coaching of tag rugby. We now have over 200 boys partaking in rugby coaching as part of our Physical Education curriculum and it is proving to be incredibly popular with the boys.



## School Website and Twitter!

Don't forget to check out our fantastic 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.

You can also follow us on **twitter** for all the latest news at [www.twitter.com/EdenderryBNS](https://www.twitter.com/EdenderryBNS)



## School Notices!

### Parents Association Raffle

The parents association are holding an Easter Raffle in Dunnes Stores on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>. An Easter hamper full of fantastic goodies is up for grabs! Raffle tickets can be purchased from school office. Tickets are €2 each or 3 for €5. All funds raised will go towards school activities. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our vibrant parents association for their continued dedication and support for the school.

### Red and White Day for Irish Red Cross

Next Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> April, we will be holding a non-uniform 'Red and White day' in order to raise money for the Irish Red Cross. Members of the Red Cross will also be visiting our school after Easter to talk to the children about 'Responding to Emergencies.'

### Lost Property

Any coats/jumpers that have been left behind since September are going to be left in the school hall. Parents can come in this Thursday and Friday to check for lost items.

### Mobile Phones:

We advise that children **do not** bring their mobile phones into school. As per school policy if any child has to bring their mobile phone to school for any reason, it must be switched off at all times while on school grounds.

### School Closures:

Easter Holidays: closing at 12 noon 11<sup>th</sup> April, reopen Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

Public holidays: school will be closed Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

School will be closed Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

School will be closed Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May to facilitate voting for local elections

All the staff of Scoil Muire Bannrion are very proud of all our students for their fantastic success and achievements so far this year.



