



Scoil Muire Bannrion



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are aware the issue of our school's future set up has been a priority for the Board of Management. The Board has actively involved parents, staff and our Patron, Bishop Denis Nulty in this discussion. Following on from surveys completed by all parents in January, our Patron Bishop Nulty has appointed Miss Maria Spring to hold a meeting for parents and interested parties to discuss this issue further. This is a very important meeting and I would urge all parents to attend, as you have an extremely important part to play in deciding the future of our school. The meeting will take place in Saint Mary's Secondary School hall next Wednesday March 25th at 7.30pm. We hope to see you all there.

Nicola McMahon



Brain Busters!! Credit Union Quiz



The Edenderry Credit Union held it's annual school quiz on Saturday 31st January and we enjoyed great success at the event. Two teams competed in the U-13 category and two teams in the U-11 category. The boys were very successful in both categories with one of our U-11 teams (consisting of Evan Nolan, Alex Barry, Eoghan Ryan and Lee King) finishing in 2nd place. Our U-13 team comprising of Ross Blong, Sai Jagili, Lee Pearson and Donal Harris were the stars of the night as they romped to victory with an astounding score of 65/72.

As a result, they represented Edenderry Credit Union in the next round of the Credit Union Primary schools quiz competition in Naas on 27th February. The boys showed their class and fantastic general knowledge winning with a fantastic score of 64 out of 72 and will now move on to the All Ireland Final which will be held in the RDS on 12th April. This team has always been a fantastic foursome with each member excelling in a variety of different topics. We know the boys will do us extremely proud at the final and we wish them and their truly dedicated coach Ms. Dolan the very best of luck.



Literacy Developments

Easons Spelling Bee

This year we organized a spelling bee competition for our 5th and 6th class pupils to find our best speller. Donal Harris from 6th Class won the title and went on to represent our school in the Offaly Spelling competition. Donal did fantastically well in this competition and came 6th out of all the schools in Offaly. Well done Donal!



Library Challenge

All classes took part in the Offaly Library Challenge over the last two months. As part of this challenge, each class spent a specified period of time (from 5 to 20 minutes depending on class level) each day reading novels and books of their choice.

World Book Day

This year our pupils took part in World Book Day where we celebrated authors, illustrators, books and reading. As part of the celebrations our pupils had the opportunity to dress up as their favourite characters. We had lots of interesting characters visit our school on the day.

As part of the celebrations, Author Liam Farrell also visited our school. He conducted a story telling workshop with our younger classes and a creative writing workshop with our senior classes.



Book Fair

The book fair visited our school from 9th-13th February. All the children in the school had the opportunity to visit it, look through and purchase the books which were on offer.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhíomar ag ceiliúradh Seachtain na Gaeilge inár scoil ón 1-17 Márta. Bhíomar ag deanamh an-iarracht níos mó Gaeilge a labhairt i ngach rang i rith na coicíse. Roghnaíodh cainteoir na seachtaine ag na múinteoirí i ngach aon rang. Thóg gach rang páirt i tráth na gceist as Gaeilge agus ghlac rang a dó, rang a trí agus rang a sé páirt i gcéilí. D'fhoghlaim rang a sé an t-amhrán 'Ar mo Thaobh'- By My Side le Sam Smith. Féach ar Twitter nó youtube (ar clár Edenderry BNS) chun éisteacht leis an amhrán seo.



We celebrated Irish Language week in our school from 1-17th March. Everyone made a special effort to speak more Irish in every class. A speaker of the week was chosen by each teacher in every class. Every class also took part in an Irish quiz and 2nd, 3rd and 6th class held a céilí where they learnt different Irish dances such as 'Siege of Ennis' and 'Shoe the Donkey'. 6th class also learnt the Song 'By my Side' by Sam Smith. Listen to their version of the song on Twitter or on YouTube (Edenderry BNS).

School Choir



Over the last four weeks, our school choir under the guidance of Mrs O'Neill have been very busy both with practices and performances. On Saturday February 28th they greatly enhanced the liturgy of the evening mass with a tremendous performance and they were treated to a rapturous applause as the congregation showed their appreciation. The choir also performed at the concert "Night of a Thousand Voices" in St. Mary's Church on Sunday March 8th. Once again, the boys sang their hearts out and received an excellent reception. However the hard work is not quite over yet as our choir now get set for the Communion and Confirmation ceremonies and we wish them the very best of luck with this undertaking.

Engineers Week

As part of Engineers Week Miss Hanrahan's class visited the Town Hall on February 10th 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.



Green Schools News!

Intercultural Day

On Tuesday, 17th February, we held our second Intercultural Day to celebrate the rich diversity within our school. Members of the school and local community were invited to join in the celebration through song, dance, poetry and project work.



A short concert was held in the school hall where the children performed a number of traditional songs, poems and dances from their home countries. Many children showcased their traditional dress and examples of traditional food, national costumes, pictures, and flags were displayed around the hall. Each class also completed a project on the theme of Global Citizenship which were on display for all to see. Projects included 'Fair Trade', 'Social Justice and Inequality', 'Sustainable Energy', 'The EU' and 'Trocaire.'

This celebration was organized as part of our ongoing process of achieving our sixth Green Schools flag which is for Global Citizenship. Our school is comprised of children that have links with 13 different countries around the world. Countries represented on the day were; Hungary, Romania, Poland, Lithuania, India, Nigeria, Latvia, China, Philippines, Ireland, Italy, Egypt and Wales. We would like to extend a huge hand of gratitude to the many parents who went above and beyond in their levels of preparation for our day. We are already looking forward to Intercultural Day 2016.

Fair Trade Fortnight

From February 27th to March 11th, we celebrated fair trade fortnight. Our classes learnt about fair trade and the importance of buying fair trade products. We also held a Fairtrade Friday where the children were encouraged to bring in a fair trade product for their lunch.



Code and Mascot Competition

We recently held a competition to create a Green Flag Code and Mascots linked to the theme of Global Citizenship. The standard of material created was absolutely fantastic and it was an incredibly difficult decision to pick the winners. However after much deliberation the following students were deemed to be the winners:

Seán McMahon wrote Our Green School Code :

*Inequality is so unfair, Lets get together and show we care.
Let's try to buy fair trade each day
A small bit of change goes a long long way.*

The three winners in the Green School Mascot competition were:

Daniel Lawton who created *The E-Koala-ty Bear*, Domantas Aranauskas who created *Global Gary* and Craig Hanlon who created *Glinda Globe*.

Green Schools Assessment Visit

On Friday 13th March, Orla Fogarty from Offaly County Council visited our school to assess our progress for attaining our 6th Green Schools Flag for Global Citizenship. Orla was extremely impressed with all the projects that we have taken on and the initiatives we have put in place over the last 2 years. She will be recommending to 'An Taisce' that we are awarded our 6th Green Schools Flag. Well done to all our pupils and teachers who worked so hard over the last 2 years.

Active Flag Update

Our Active Flag Committee have been busy researching various activities that can be used in our school as we aim to achieve our Active Flag for 2014-2015. The following are some of the new initiatives we have taken on board since Christmas.

3km Challenge

Our fourth class began a couch to 3km training programme which saw them commence interval running training. This helped the boys build up their running endurance therefore enhancing their ability to partake in long distance running. After 3 weeks of training, all boys completed a 3km run. Well done boys.



Activity Breaks

A particularly beneficial idea has been the creation of busy breaks in our school which means that during inclement weather conditions when it is impossible for our students to get outside for break times, all classes partake in physical exercises following the breaks. These have proved tremendously popular with our students and are a great way to meet the required activity levels for young students on wet days.

Circuits

All of our pupils took part in Circuit Friday for the month of February. For 4 Fridays all of our students completed 20 fun exercises at different stations around our school yard. Miss Flaherty's 6th class took a very active role in organising the stations and were in charge of leading each of the stations. The circuits were such a success that we have decided to hold circuits once a month from now on.



Active Schools Week

As part of our drive to achieving our Active Flag, we will be holding an active schools week from 27th April- 1st May where we will be organizing fun physical activity opportunities for our pupils every day. We are currently looking for suggestions for fun activities for our Active Schools Week. Anybody (parents or pupils) who have any suggestions, are asked to write it on a piece of paper and put it into our Active Schools suggestion box which is located in front of our Active Schools notice board.

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 5 Years in a Row!!!

On Monday March 2nd, our 5th and 6th class athletics team travelled to Tullamore to take part in this year's Offaly Sportshall Athletics Championships. Having won this title for the last 4 years in a row (not to mention 4 All Ireland Championships) our athletes travelled in great confidence. This confidence was not out of place as we won every track event and practically all the field events. The boys succeeded in claiming the title of Offaly Sportshall Champions for 2015 for the fifth year in a row and will be heading to Athlone IT to represent Offaly in this year's All Ireland Championships on Wednesday 25th March. Well done to all our brilliant athletes. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Frank Kilrayne for all his hard work with the boys.



Cumann na mBunscol Skills Competitions.

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 Sean McMahon made the trip to Banagher to take part in the hurling where he acquitted himself fantastically well and came 3rd out of all the schools in Offaly.



Daragh Farrell travelled to Clara to compete in the football competition and he put in a

tremendous performance to finish second only one point behind the winner. Both boys represented our school with distinction and we are very proud of their achievements.

Hurling News

Indoor Hurling Blitz

Our indoor hurling panel made the trip to St. Mary's Youth Centre in Tullamore to take part in the annual 5th/6th class indoor hurling blitz. With 6 teams competing, the standard was always going to be high and some good performances would be needed to progress in the competition. Our first game was a very tight defensive game against Portarlington and we managed to come away with a narrow 1-0 victory. Our second game against Tullamore was a more open affair however we recorded another 1 goal victory this time on a 4-3 scoreline which left us in a good position. Durrow were however to prove too strong in Round 3 and a 4-2 defeat saw us under pressure to progress. Ballinamere were next up in Round 4 and we recorded a terrific victory in this game which saw us needing to at least draw in our last game to stay in the competition. This game was against Clara who had previously won all their games and a terrific performance saw us claim a 1-1 victory which was enough to put us through to a semi-final verses Durrow. Our boys were keen to avenge our earlier defeat to the same opposition and they duly delivered the performance of the day beating Durrow 3-1 to reach the final. Unfortunately Clara proved to be a bridge too far in the final as they took the spoils on a 4-1 scoreline. However our boys were absolutely brilliant from start to finish and once again showed that there are lots of young hurlers in Edenderry.



Communion and Confirmation

Confirmation

As part of their preparation for Confirmation, the boys in sixth class took part in the Ceremony of Light on March 7th.

Confirmation will take place on 30th May.

Communion

The children in second class were busy preparing for their first confession which took place on 11th March.

The next Do this in Memory Mass will take place on the, 28th/29th March.



Cyberbullying Talk

Garda Alan Moran visited our senior classes this month to speak to them about cyberbullying and how to communicate respectfully online. During his visit he also spoke to the boys about his work as a Garda and some lucky pupils got to try on his vest and handcuffs.

Archaeologist Visit

Archaeologist Donna Gilligan visited Mr. Ryan's and Mr. Foran's class last month. During this

Swimming

Swimming will commence for all



interactive workshop, the boys were introduced to the work of an archaeologist and partook in interactive games based on the presentation that was given to them. They also participated in their very own archaeological dig where they looked for rare artefacts. It was a fantastic educational experience for our pupils and proved to be very popular

classes on Wednesday 25th March. Each class will have four lessons (1 before Easter and 3 after). The cost is €5 per lesson. This price includes the cost of the lesson and the bus. Each child will need swimming togs and a swimming hat.

Windfarm Visit

In February all classes from our school visited the local wind turbines in Mount Lucas. Classes learnt how renewable energy is generated by these wind turbines and what happens to the electricity created. Classes also learnt about the obstacles encountered during the construction process. This included the finding of historical artefacts such as fulacht fia, pottery and toghers (ancient timber roadways) which meant that an archaeologist had to be on site at all times during the construction



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 including our new Cultural Diversity and Active Flag Webpages.

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



School Notices!

School Closures:

Easter Holidays: closing at 12 noon 27th March, reopen Monday 13th April.

Public holidays: school will be closed Monday 4th May and Tuesday 5th May.

School will be closed Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd June.

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

