



# Scoil Muire Bannrion



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## Easter Newsletter



It has been a very busy past few weeks here in Scoil Muire Bannrion. Here is a quick update!

### Competition Time!

Already 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!

### Offaly Sports Hall Championships

On Friday March 8<sup>th</sup>, both our 3rd/4th class and 5th/6th class athletics teams travelled to Tullamore to take part in the Offaly Sportshall Athletics Championship. Over the last two years we have had unbelievable success in this competition. We have not only won the Offaly event but also went on to win the national championships in Athlone IT. Our run of success continued this year when both our 3rd/4th and 5th/6th class won the Offaly championships. In fact our teams won 6 of the 7 events they competed in so they comprehensively claimed top prizes.



After winning the Offaly championships, the boys went on to partake in the All Ireland Semi Finals last Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March in Athlone IT. Both teams performed brilliantly and made it through to the All Ireland Final which will be held in Athlone next Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Well done boys and best of luck in the final!!

6 boys from our school are also competing in the National Athletics Finals in Athlone on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>. We wish them luck also!!

## Fifth and Sixth Class Football Blitz

On Friday March 1st two teams travelled to Tullamore FC to take part in the North Offaly 7-a-side Gaelic Football blitz organised by Offaly GAA Games and Development. While it was a 7-a-side competition both panels consisted of ten boys with rotating substitutes. Both teams acquitted themselves very well against schools from all over North Offaly and in fact both teams managed to get to their respective finals. Unfortunately Portarlington proved narrowly too strong for both sides in the finals. Well done to all 20 boys on some super football.



## Hurling

Our hurling panel are currently in full swing training hard for the Cumann na mBunscol championship. Hopefully this year we will be able to go one step further than last year where we were beaten in the final by an incredibly strong Ballinamere NS team.



Provisional fixtures for the championship are:

Vs Clara (home) To be confirmed

Vs Killeigh (away) week beginning Monday April 8<sup>th</sup>

Vs Ballinamere (home) week beginning Monday April 15<sup>th</sup>

Vs Scoil Eoin Phoil (away) week beginning Monday April 22<sup>nd</sup>

## Tag Rugby Blitz

On Tuesday February 26<sup>th</sup> Mr. Ryan's fourth class travelled to Edenderry RFC to take part in a tag rugby blitz along with a number of other schools in the area. This blitz was the culmination of a series of workshops in the school introducing the boys to some of the basic skills of rugby through the non-physical element of tag rugby. Due to how well our boys performed in the training sessions leading up to the blitz, it was decided to place the boys in a group along side 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class mixed teams from other schools. It was fantastic to see the boys put in some tremendous performances against these older teams and to say they held their own would be quite the understatement. All boys really enjoyed the experience and it was hugely encouraging to see the amount of boys who wanted to take up rugby due to their involvement in the blitz. A huge congratulations must also go to Junior who was awarded player of the blitz. Special thanks to Patsy Gorman and Edenderry RFC for facilitating the event and to the parents who brought children to the event and who supported us.



## Easter Rugby Camp

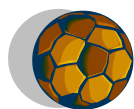
Edenderry RFC are running an Easter Rugby camp from Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April until Friday 5<sup>th</sup> from 9.30 to 1pm daily. This is open to both boys and girls aged between 4-12. The cost is €40 per child. Please text 086 4006223 with your child's name and age to reserve a place. Payment will take place on the first morning of the camp.



## Hurling Coaching

In co-ordination with Edenderry GAA club, hurling co-ordinator Jimmy O'Grady has started his weekly coaching sessions with our students. Over the course of the next number of weeks Jimmy will be taking each class for one hour per week and introducing the students to the basics of hurling. Skills such as ground striking, jab lift, roll lift, striking from the hand and tackling will all be focussed on. Here in Edenderry BNS we pride ourselves on the equal promotion of both football and hurling through our comprehensive PE scheme and we are delighted to give every boy an opportunity to practise our ancient game.

### Sports Marathon



Details of our Sports Marathon have now been released. We are hoping to raise money for sports and PE equipment for our school. Throughout the course of the day our boys will be partaking in a wide variety of sporting activities in a bid to raise funds for our school. The boys currently are attempting to fill out sponsorship cards with the boy who raises the most money in each class receiving a sliotar and a brand new hurl signed by a hurling celebrity. To launch this year's Sports Marathon our former Principal Mr. Seán Fitzgerald will be cycling 160km, all the way from his home town of Tulla in Co. Clare to our school in Edenderry. Mr. Fitzgerald hopes to arrive into Edenderry at 2pm on Wednesday March 20th to officially launch our Sports Marathon.



### Trip to Leinster Rugby Match

A fantastic day was had by all the students who travelled to the RDS in Dublin on Saturday February 16<sup>th</sup> to see Leinster take on Treviso in the Rabo League. The boys were treated to a really enjoyable game and as luck would have it, Leinster managed to run in six tries for the boys to savour. The obligatory trip to McDonald's on the way home also went down a treat. Hopefully we'll see some of these students out on the RDS pitch in the blue of Leinster in the not too distant future.



### Brain Busters!! Credit Union Quiz



After successfully winning round one here in Edenderry last month, our U11 table quiz team travelled to Naas on Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> to take part in the chapter level of the Credit Union Table Quiz. The prize at stake was a place in the All-Ireland Quiz finals so the boys knew that a difficult evening was in store as the level of competition was extremely high. However much to everyone's delight here at Edenderry BNS the boys came out on top of the pile after a tense play-off and now advance to All-Ireland Final which will be held in the RDS in Dublin on Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> at midday. 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. Here's hoping they can bring home All-Ireland gold.



# Green Schools News

It has been a very busy few weeks on the green school front. Here are the latest updates.

## Biodiversity Action Day

As part of our ongoing Green Schools programme to obtain our fifth green flag, this time for Biodiversity, we held a hugely successful Biodiversity Action Day on Wednesday February 27<sup>th</sup>. Our school hall was decorated with each classes biodiversity project.



The full list of projects were:

Miss Dolan	Farm Animals
Miss Tyrrell	Soil and the Earthworm.
Miss. Blain	Hedgerow habitat.
Miss Flaherty	Pollination and pollinators.
Mr. Ryan	Woodland Habitat
Miss Hanrahan	The Grand Canal
Mrs. Martin	A local River- The River Boyne
Ms. Bannon	Bogland Habitats
Mr. Foran	Climate Change and Biodiversity

We would like to congratulate the boys on their fantastic work on these projects, the Green Schools Committee for organising the event and the parents for coming in such great numbers to support the Action Day.

## Biodiversity Code and Mascots

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

Creation of Green School Code :

Gary Mulligan who came up with the following

*Biodiversity is so cool*

*We are learning all about it in school*

*So come on everyone and do your share*

*Together we can show we care*

*Plants and animals, both big and small*

*They depend on us to save them all.*



The four winners in the Green School Mascot competition were:

Cathal Tyrell who created *The Hedginator*, Domantas Aranauskas who created *The Buzzinator*, Jason O Connor who created *David the Duckling* and Thomas Donoghue who created *Freddy Frog the pond protector*

## Clara Bog

As part of our Green School programme for this year all classes will be visiting the Clara Bog in April to learn about bogland environments.

## One Million Trees in a Day

We will be taking part in the One Million Trees in One Day Initiative on 26<sup>th</sup>



April. One Million Trees in One Day is a charity, not-for-profit, cross-border, community and environmental initiative who are aiming to get as many people as possible involved in planting one million young native trees at many different sites across both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in 24 hours. We will be planting a cherry blossom tree on the schools grounds.

## Green School Assessment

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March Caroline Clancy, Environmental Liaison Officer with Offaly County Council visited our school to assess all the hard work of the boys over the last few months for the Biodiversity Green Flag. Caroline met with the green school committee and they explained all the work that the boys did to achieve the Biodiversity Flag and how we maintained our Litter and Waste, Energy, Water and Travel flags. Boys from the green school committee took Caroline on a tour of the school grounds and showed her our daffodils spirals, bluebell garden, unmanaged area, hedgehog box, bird boxes and our very impressive insect hotel and log pile.

The green school committee would like to pay special thanks to our parent and community representatives on the committee, Willie McCreanor and Frank Hardy for their invaluable contributions throughout the year. Without their help none of those would have been possible. The boys explained to Caroline that the hard work is going to continue. We are going to sow a wildflower garden, a herb garden and an organic vegetable garden in April. Caroline also viewed our green school project display in the hall. We are now awaiting confirmation from An Taisce that we will receive our fifth green flag for Biodiversity. Well done to all the boys in the school for their hard work.



## Kildare and Leighlin Diocesan Congress



As part of the Diocesan Congress 2013, all 173 Catholic Primary Schools in the Diocese were invited to decorate a fish as it significant in the life of Jesus in the bible and in the lives of Christians. We invited boys to decorate their own fish and were amazed with the imaginative pieces the boys created. Craig Maher's fish was chosen to represent our school at the congress. His fish will become part of an installation in the Cathedral of the Assumption Carlow during the Diocesan Congress

and will remain there for the Lenten and Easter Season.

## Communion and Confirmation

### Confirmation

As part of their preparation for Confirmation, boys in sixth class attended a 'You Are My Witness' programme for four Thursdays in February. They also took part in the Ceremony of Light on March 2nd.

Confirmation will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> April.



## Swimming

Swimming will commence for all classes on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Each class will have four lessons. The cost is €5 per lesson. This price includes



## Communion

The children in second class are busy preparing for their first confession which will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> March. The next Do this in Memory Masses will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> of March and 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> April.

the cost of the lesson and the bus. Each child will need swimming togs and a swimming hat.

## Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl inár scoil an t-seachtain seo caite. Bhíomar ag deanamh an-iarracht níos mó Gaeilge a labhairt i ngach rang i rith na seachtaine. Roghnaíodh cainteoir na seachtaine ag na múinteoirí i ngach aon rang.



*We celebrated Irish Language week last week. Everyone made a special effort to speak more Irish in every class for the week. A speaker of the week was chosen by each teacher in every class.*



## World Science Day

Sai Jagili from 4<sup>th</sup> class took part in this years World Science Day. He is currently awaiting confirmation of **10<sup>th</sup> place in the world!!**

## Homework Club

Our students in the homework club had great fun making pancakes for Pancake Tuesday.

They also visited the Youth Café on the 7<sup>th</sup> March where they had great fun playing pool, and darts and were introduced to the lovely staff. The youth café is open for primary school children every Friday between 3-4. All primary school are invited to attend.

## 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](http://www.twitter.com/EdenderryBNS)



## School Notices!

### Parents Association Raffle

The parents association are holding an Easter Raffle in Dunnes Stores on Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be plenty of prizes and an Easter hamper up for grabs! We would like to take this opportunity to thank our vibrant parents association for their continued dedication and support for the school.

### School Closures:

Easter Holidays: closing at 12 noon Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, reopen Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April.  
Public holidays: school will be closed Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

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



