



Scoil Muire Bannrion



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Welcome From Miss McMahon

A warm welcome to our Spring Edition School Newsletter! We have had a very busy and successful start to 2013. Congratulations to the 16 boys who represented our school in the local Credit Union Quiz on Saturday night last. Special congratulations to the Under 11 team who came first place on the night, they have done us very proud and we wish them the best of luck in the next round of the Competition.

A huge well done to Mr Ryan and our hurlers who had a great win in their first hurling competition of this year! We also had a fantastic success in the athletics arena recently where Junior Rahman, Lee Pearson, Liam Farrell, Habib Goloba and Leon Ajibola won first place in the 400m relay and will now go on to represent Offaly in the All-Ireland Competition.

Sincere thanks to all staff for their continued dedication and support of the children. Finally I would like to wish you all an enjoyable mid-term break!

Nicola McMahon

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 the mid-term!

North Offaly Indoor Hurling Champions

The hurling panel had their first challenge of the year last Friday, 1st February when they competed in the North Offaly Indoor Hurling Blitz in Tullamore. The boys rose to the challenge and were worthy winners successfully beating Gaelscoil, and Durrow. Well Done boys, this augers well for Cumann na mBunscol in the coming months.



Offaly Sports Hall Championships

Both our 3rd /4th Class and 5th/6th class Athletics teams will take part in the Offaly Sports Hall Championships, individual schools will compete and the top 4 schools will go forward to the Offaly County Championships. 24 athletes from our school will participate in the competition. The boys have been training hard every Tuesday and Friday for the past few weeks. We would like to wish the boys the best of luck!



Brain Busters!! Credit Union Quiz



Boys from third, fourth, fifth and sixth class took part in round one of the Credit Union Schools Quiz on Saturday 2nd February in St. Mary's Primary School. On the night two teams represented Scoil Muire Banríon in the both the Under 13 and Under 11 category.

Donal Harris, Lee Pearson, Sai Jagili, and Ross Blong took part in the under 11 category, along with Seyi Adebehinbe, Michael Brady, Aaron Ankers, and Billy Leech. In the under 13 category Adam Hanlon, Thomas Donoghue, Ben O'Neill and Cathal Farrell made up one team, and Alan Harte, Jordan Loughlin, Scott Mannion and Eoin Tyrrell made up the other.

All four teams did extremely well on the night with Donal, Sai, Ross and Lee taking first place in U-11 category. They will now go on to represent Edenderry Credit Union at Chapter Level on the first weekend on March in Naas. Well done to all the boys who took part!



Under 11 Winners

Green Schools

As you may be aware we are now in the process of attaining our fifth green flag which is awarded for Bio-Diversity - The Study of Habitats. As part of raising awareness we have already taken part in the following initiatives.

Biodiversity Mascots and Codes

All pupils had the opportunity to design a biodiversity mascot and write a biodiversity code. The standard was extremely high this year with great mascots and codes being produced. It will be very difficult to choose just one code and mascot. The winners will be announced shortly.

Class Biodiversity Projects:

All Classes are currently working very hard on their green schools bio-diversity projects. Here is a list of our class projects.

Class

Miss Dolan
Miss Tyrrell
Miss. Blain
Miss Flaherty
Mr. Ryan
Miss Hanrahan
Mrs. Martin
Ms. Bannon
Mr. Foran

Project

Farm Animals
Crops on the farm.
Hedgerow habitat.
Pollination and pollinators.
Woodland Habitat
The Grand Canal
A local River
Bogland Habitats
Climate Change and Biodiversity



Classes will be showcasing their projects in the school hall on 27th February. Parents and Guardians are invited to come and see the children's projects on this day.

Bird Houses

In partnership with Edenderry Tidy Towns Committee, students in our school are helping to set up bird boxes in the school and parish centre grounds. Willie MrCreanor and Frank Hardy from the Tidy Towns Committee have made a number of bird boxes. Ms. Bannon's class are currently painting these boxes. The boys hope to help Willie and Frank hang the boxes in the coming weeks in the school and parish centre grounds.

Bird Watching

Every Thursday each class is keeping a record of the birds they see in the school grounds. Liam Cox, Niall Leonard, Dylan O Connor and William McBride are participating in a bird watch survey conducted by Bird Watch Ireland with the help of Mr. O Looney. The boys are also attending to the bird tables ensuring that the birds have sufficient food during the cold winter.



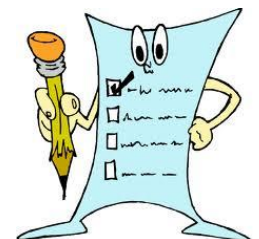
Art Project

Ms. Hanrahan's class became designers for the last few weeks, designing their ideal bedrooms in shoeboxes. They used everyday items such as cardboard, matches, lollipop sticks, fabric, crepe paper, pipe cleaners etc to create really impressive miniature bedrooms. Here is one of their designs entitled *Crimson Cottage*. Visit our blog to see more examples



Diversity of Patronage Survey

As you will be aware, the Minister for Education & Skills, Mr. Ruairí Quinn, has started a new process to look at the possible transfer of some schools run by the Catholic Church to other patron bodies in 44 areas around the country. Edenderry has been selected as one of those 44 areas. Parents of primary and pre-school children in Edenderry are now being asked to



complete an on-line survey indicating their preference as to what type of primary school they would like their children to attend. The responses of parents to the on-line survey will be used to consider what changes, if any, could be made to widen the choice of primary schools in Edenderry. The survey will be available to complete online until midnight on 7th February. If you have not already completed the survey, you can do so on <http://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/Diversity-of-Patronage/Surveys.html>

Communion and Confirmation

Confirmation

The parish confirmation programme 'You shall be my witness' begins in the parish on Thursday, February 7th. It will take place every Thursday for 4 weeks. All children preparing for their confirmation will be attending. Confirmation will take place on 20th April.



Communion

The children in second class are busy preparing for their first confession which will take place next month. Details to follow. This month's 'Do this in Memory Mass' will take place on 23rd and 24th of February.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week took place from January 27th to February 2nd. As part of this celebration each class took part in number of lessons based on the theme "Catholic Schools in the Community of Faith: Sharing the Good News".



6th Class Visit to Oakland's Secondary School



Both Mr. Foran's and Ms. Bannon's 6th Classes visited Oakland's Secondary on 24th January. They were shown around the school and introduced to different subjects and facilities that the school has to offer.

Brendan Keeley Visits our School

Singer and song writer Brendan Keeley, visited our school on Monday to teach all of our students his new song, "We Will Be Strong". He invited the boys to join him in recording his song in O'Connor Park in Tullamore on Sunday 27th January.

School Tours



All school tours will take place in June this year. Teachers are very conscious of keeping prices down. To help keep costs manageable, parents will be given plenty of notice to pay for tours. As has happened in previous years, parents will also have the opportunity to pay for their child's tour in installments. Further notice on school tours will be provided by your sons class teacher.

Engineers Week

As part of Engineers Week sixth class will take part in an engineering workshop conducted by Steps Engineers Ireland on 11th February. This years theme is 'Engaging with Architecture.'



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



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!

Upcoming Events:

Non-uniform day:

A non-uniform day will be held on February 8th in order to raise funds for this years Saint Patrick's Day parade.

Staff meeting:

Scoil Muire Banríon will close at 12.30pm on Wednesday 20th February for a staff meeting and training.

Book Fair

Book fair will be visiting our school from Thursday 28th February and 7th March.



Seachtain na Gaeilge:

All classes will be celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge between 4th- 17th March

Swimming Lessons

Swimming Lessons will commence for all classes in April. More details to follow closer to the time.



School Closures:

Mid-term 14th and 15th February

Bank Holiday Monday 19th March

Easter Holidays: closing at 12 noon Friday 22nd March, reopen Monday 8th April.

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