

Saint Patrick's Infants School Newsletter

Jan / Feb 2018



Upcoming Events

- ◆ School closed for Mid Term Break on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th February
- ◆ Seachtain na Gaeilge 1st - 17th March
- ◆ Senior Infants trip to the Glucksman Galery in UCC for "Monsters in the Museum"
- ◆ St. Patrick's Festival. School closed 19th March
- ◆ Senior Infants performance in the Cór Fhéile. Date to be confirmed.
- ◆ School closed for Easter Holidays 26th March - 6th April

A Spring message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians and Friends

Dia dhaoibh go léir!

Spring has really sprung in St. Patrick's Infants school and we have all been really busy both inside and outside the school, from planting bulbs, making pancakes, looking for signs of



Spring to completing surveys and Maths trails. The girls, boys and staff have been very industrious enjoying our learning together...

Anne O'Connell
Principal

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2018

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2018 will take place from 1st – 17th March and will see events take place all over Ireland and abroad to celebrate the Irish language. The festival gives everyone a chance to experiment and have fun with Irish, whether they are fluent speakers or only dipping their toe in the language for the 1st time. Events will include conversation gatherings, traditional music,

sean-nós and Irish dancing, historic walks, poetry reading, lessons, speed dating as *Gaeilge*, children's events, storytelling, concerts and many cafés will hold conversation circles.

Here in St. Patrick's the staff and children will be completing activities such as quizzes, drama, storytelling, songs etc through Irish

Open Morning

On Tuesday 30th January we were delighted to welcome to our school all those boys and girls hoping to start in Junior Infants in September. They joined their parents/guardians on a walk around the school visiting various classrooms and getting acquainted with the teaching staff. Our current Junior Infants proudly sang songs, performed action rhymes, answered questions and chatted about their favourite activities in school (mainly yard time and lunch!!)

We look forward to meeting the parents again at our Open Night in June where important information and advice will be given.

Attendance

There are many supports available to parents and children promoting good attendance in school.

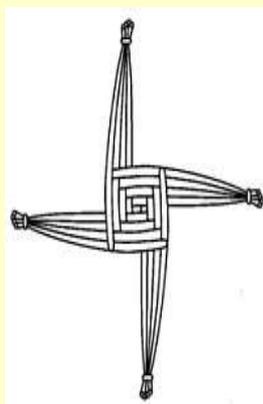


The National Education Welfare Board (NEWB) was established in 2002 under the Education Act 2000 and has recently come under the umbrella of Tús. The act promotes attendance, participation and retention of pupils in schools. The NEWB consists of the School Completion Programme (SCP), the Home School Community Liaison Scheme (HSCL) and the Educational Welfare Service (EWS).

In our school we have the services of Ms. Kirsten O'Neill (SCP) who works with small groups and whole classes; Ms Joy Murray and Ms Lizann McHugh, our home school links teachers who support the families from St Patrick's Infants, Boys N.S., Girls N.S. and St. Patrick's College and Mr Tony O'Connor, our educational welfare officer who becomes involved when there are issues arising around poor attendance or placement of pupils in alternative schools. These three strands of the NEWB work together to secure better educational outcomes for children and young people. More information about the role of the NEWB is available on www.newb.ie.

Finally, their motto is worth remembering

"Every day counts in a child's education"



St Brigid's Day

A special assembly was held on Friday 9th February to celebrate one of Ireland's most important saints, Saint Brigid. Ms Kenna told us the story of St Brigid and students from each class read out special prayers dedicated to Saint Brigid and we all joined in singing our beautiful song "We sing a song to Brigid"



Irish Dancing

Nothing lifts the spirits more than lively music and an energetic dance, so we welcomed Nicky an Irish Dance Teacher to our school to teach the boys and girls the basic steps and routines of our own national dance which we hope to showcase soon. If you happen to walk along the corridor on a Tuesday you will be sure to hear the tapping of little feet dancing to the rhythm of a jig or a reel. Look out for your invite, to come into school and witness the effort and joy involved

Maths 4 Fun

The children in Senior Infants welcomed their parents into their classrooms to partake in some Maths for Fun games and activities over the last number of weeks. The children had the opportunity to show off their Maths skills to their parents. They played games using dice and identified 3d shapes. The children had lots of fun. Thank you to all the parents for coming in and making it such a success!

Green School

The students and staff have been challenged to create a new Green Flag slogan for bio-diversity. Each class will submit their entry after the Mid-Term break and the Green Schools Committee will pick a winner. There will be a special prize for the winning class. Good luck everyone!



Grandparents Day

Here in St. Patrick's Infants we know how important grandparents are and what a huge role they play in their grandchild's life. We decided to acknowledge and celebrate this by inviting all grandparents into our school for a special assembly and a chance to visit their little angels in their classrooms! What a beautiful atmosphere and incredible turn out as we celebrated what makes our grandparents so special, unique and wonderful.

A big thank you to all the grannies and grandads who attended and made this a special day for everyone



Food Dudes

Food Dudes is a programme 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 large-scale studies in schools in England and Wales and 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.

The programme in Ireland received a "counteracting obesity" award from the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2006.

The programme is managed by Bord Bia and to date over 3,100 primary schools have participated in the National Roll Out which will be completed in 2014. Funding has been made available by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the EU School Fruit Scheme for schools that previously ran Food Dudes to implement it for current students at junior level.

A big thank you to Mr Cadogan for organising the initiative

Healthy Lunches

Our school is a health promoting school and we are very fortunate to be able to offer each child a free, nutritious, tasty lunch and snack each day. We have been trialling new sandwiches from Ryan's SuperValu in Glanmire using doorstep bread with deli meats which have been going down a treat with all the students. Thank you to Ms Duke for co-ordinating the new lunches for all classes. Eating healthily promotes improved concentration and higher achievement among young children as well as long term health gains in later life. Our school lunch consists of:

- Fresh fruits (bananas, grapes, strawberries, oranges)
- Doorstep brown bread
- Cheddar cheese
- Real deli sliced turkey/ham
- Milk and plain water.



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"Think kind words,
kind hands, kind feet"

We're on the Web!
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