



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK AND GRANDPARENTS' DAY

Thank you to all the grandparents who joined us on 2nd February for our third Grandparents' day. It was a lovely occasion. This was a great part of our celebration of Catholic Schools' Week. Thank you to Bernadette Toal for lighting the special candle and passing it to Mrs Cleary, our principal, who passed it on to Mrs Elizabeth Stokes who then passed it on to Rebecca, her grandchild. This symbolised the triangle of influence on a child's faith formation – the home, school and parish. What a great song we had from Brannagh and Odhran's grandmother Geraldine Cullen and then Mr Jim Molloy, Amelie and Connie's grandfather gave a moving talk about the importance of his grandchildren. Various children represented their classes by reading out our beautiful poems and prayers. You could feel the love in the air. Thank you to our wonderful teachers for welcoming the grandparents into their classrooms after the ceremony.

NB The school will close for a half day at 12pm Friday March 9th to allow further training in the new Child Protection Procedures.

STUDENTS COUNCIL:

Our fantastic Students' Council kept our Grandparents' event moving smoothly and were great welcome ambassadors for our school. Well done Max, Daisyellen, Imelda, Sienna, Leon, Ava, Turlough, T.J. and Romy.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION:

Can I take this opportunity to thank all those parents who have given the school a voluntary contribution. It is very much appreciated.



GREEN SCHOOL NEWS:

Well done to all those children who are walking to school every day and to those who make a special effort on Wednesdays. We continue to strive for our Biodiversity Flag. Our Green Code "All Gods' Creatures Big and Small Biodiversity Rules Them All" is really coming to life. Thanks to Mr Mick Behan for installing our new wildlife pictures in the shelter. It took a lot of time and effort. Miss Wallnutt's Junior and Senior infants have planted broad beans and onions. Mr O'Dwyer's class wrote wonderful acrostic poems. 3rd and 4th mapped our school garden and made Before and After habitat maps. 1st and 2nd made lovely birdhouses from recycled milk cartons.



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:

The children from 5th and 6th will celebrate their Ceremony of Light at 8pm on 13th March. We wish them well in their preparations. We were delighted to receive a reply to our letters to the Bishop addressed specifically to Aoife Casey.

Lauren Lennon from Trócaire gave a talk to the children from 1st – 6th on February 20th. This opened the children's eyes to the plight of children less fortunate than themselves.

SCHOOL CHOIR:

The choir will sing at the Ceremony of Light and we thank Ms Wallnutt for her enthusiasm and

dedication. 5th and 6th will visit St. Columba's College for a Choral day on the 6th March.

WEB SITE:

Our new web site is now up and running and it is great to see so many people accessing the information there. Special thanks to Ms Aisling Cleary who set up the web site voluntarily and made sure to archive all our old material. Can I take this opportunity to thank Mr Mick Behan who set up our old web site and maintained it voluntarily for many years. He is a great friend to our school.



ENGINEERS' WEEK:

We hope to achieve the "Excellence in Science and Maths Award" once again this year. Lots of great work is going on in the classrooms on the various themes. During Engineers' Week, 3rd and 4th class visited Tallaght Stadium for a workshop on "Do you want to be a super hero?". This was a perfect introduction to the world of engineering. On Wednesday 28th, an engineer will visit 3rd – 6th class. On Friday 2nd March, 1st and 2nd will visit Engineers Ireland. All classes have been having fun with k-nex and our "Botley" coding robot.

SAFER INTERNET DAY:

On 6th February, the children were given lessons on keeping safe on-line. Each child also got a wristband to raise awareness. It has been brought to our attention that the game "Roblox" is unsuitable for children. Please be mindful of your child's on-line use.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION:

Thank you to our wonderful Parents' Association for their support and their fundraising efforts. We have now installed the

new computerised weather station and two new vegetable beds. The material has been purchased for the new bicycle shed. The Parents' Association provided a lovely cup of tea and some cakes for our grandparents on their special day and I know this was very much appreciated by them all.

SEACHTAIN na GAEILGE:

This begins on 1st March and lasts for a fortnight!! We will all try to use as much Geailge as possible (helped by the School Council). On Friday 16th March we will have a ceolchoirm in the hall for the children.



WORLD BOOK DAY:

This takes place on Thursday 1st March. Children may bring in their favourite book and we will have "buddy reading" between the classes.

SPECIAL PRAYERS:

We ask that you continue to keep Ms Tallon and Valerie in your prayers. We pray for anyone in our families and parish who are sick at this time.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

9TH March : school closes at 12pm : Teacher Training

19TH March : Public Holiday

23RD March : School closes 12pm for Easter holidays

9TH April : School closed teachers training in New Primary Language Curriculum

10TH April : School re-opens @8.45am

14TH April : Confirmation Day

8TH June : Sports Day

Philomena Cleary
Principal