

ENTERPRISE DAY

Scoil Bhríde Primary School hosted its first 'Enterprise Day' on Friday March 7th 2014. Student demand for trade stands far surpassed expectations as over 100 young entrepreneurs from 2nd to 5th class participated. Judges visited all trade stands and spoke to all the individual project promoters. They examined them on all aspects of their businesses. They spoke of how impressed they were with all the young entrepreneurs and congratulated them on their business initiatives. However, while the judges were spoilt for choice, they did nevertheless have to select one entrepreneur to become Scoil Bhríde's 'Most Enterprising Student' for 2014. After much deliberation, they had narrowed it down to three exceptional applicants. In third place was Joe Bergin from 3rd class with his business 'Youtoon'. The judges then agreed that Luke Behan from 2nd class with his business 'Peg-A-Memory' would be the runner up. Aaron Murphy, from 3rd class, was announced the winner for his enterprise 'Foto Frame Fun'. Well done to all of the entrepreneurs who took part and made Enterprise Day a most memorable day. Staff would also like to thank all of the parents for their support and co-operation with the initiative.

SURVEY ON SCHOOL UNIFORMS

The Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn, requested a survey be undertaken with all parents/guardians regarding school uniforms. We conducted our survey in mid-March. In summary, the results of our school uniform survey indicate the majority of parents (98%) want the school to have a school uniform. Parents want a mix of clothing that allows them to purchase some items in Department Stores but they also want to keep the bespoke pre-crested items to retain the quality and the unique identity of the school. The majority of parents feel the school jacket should be compulsory but some parents suggest an improvement in its quality is needed. The Board is currently investigating jacket suppliers with a view to ensuring the best quality and price is sourced for our jacket going forward. Parents will be informed of the outcome as soon as the information becomes available.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES— COMING UP

BOOK LISTS

Booklists for 2014-15 school year are currently being prepared and should be ready for distribution on the 08th May. Parents can then opt to begin paying for their children's books over May and June.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2013

Pupils in Second Class are busy preparing to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist on Saturday the 17th of May at 12 pm.

SCHOOL TOURS

Teachers are currently planning their classes 2014 school tours. These are being planned for the last week of May and throughout June.

EUROPEAN SUCCESS FOR SCOIL BHRÍDE

We are delighted to inform you that Scoil Bhríde Primary School has been selected as one of only 65 primary schools throughout the country, and the only school in County Offaly, to participate in a pan-European project. The project funded under the EU Comenius Programme, involves partner schools in Cyprus, Greece, Spain, Poland and England. The focus of the project is to facilitate our pupils to examine skills past and present with a view to educating them on the importance of developing their own interests, talents and skills going forward. The children are currently undertaking projects on employment in our area in the past and are seeking any information, photographs or memorabilia your family might have relating to the Edenderry Shoe Factory and Bord na Mona. All material will be returned to you safely. After Easter Scoil Bhríde will host a 'Careers Day' associated with the project and in May the partners from the five participating countries will visit our school to see our projects and our work.

GOLF CLASSIC

A Golf Classic has been organised to raise funds for the sensory gardens and play school for the new school. For further information please call Alan Maher on 086 3720937 or Nicola Kenna on 086 3720891

HURLING TRAINING

Hurling and camogie training will re-commence for boys and girls from 3rd to 5th class after the Easter Break. Days and times will be sent via text after the holidays.

SCOIL BHRÍDE PRIMARY SCHOOL Carrick Road, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.



Newsletter Issue No. 14
09th April 2014

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

Welcome to the Spring Edition of our Parents' Newsletter and what a busy time we are having this term! The term began with the good news that work on our new school would commence and I am delighted to tell you that the build is progressing very well. I have regular updates from the OPW and am reliably informed that, to date, everything is on schedule for an opening early in the New Year. Photographs are posted regularly on our website so that you can track the build.

We were successful in our application under the EU Comenius Programme and the school is now linked to schools in five other European countries. This is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils. It will allow them to develop links with schools and pupils in these countries and will broaden their learning experiences.

We had our Annual Grandparents Day, our St Bridgid's Day celebrations, our Enterprise Day, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Food Dudes and the commencement of the Rainbows Programme, and there is still lots more to come with plans for Easter celebrations well underway.

On that note, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter. Enjoy the break.

Beir Bua agus Beannacht

Caoimhín Ó Dúfaigh (Príomh Oide)

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LATEST NEWS

WORLD BOOK DAY/ LIBRARY VISITS

For World Book Day 2014 the pupils of Scoil Bhríde dressed up as their favourite characters from books they have read. Some of the characters attending school on the day were Harry Potter and Horrid Henry!! All classes also visited Edenderry Library where the librarians kindly suggested some new books to read. Thanks to Edenderry Library for accommodating all the classes and to all of the parents for their efforts with the costumes.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

The First Class boys and girls in Ms. Evan's, Ms. Butlers's and Mr. Winters' class invited their grandparents to join them in the Edenderry GAA Hall to celebrate Grandparents' Day during February. This provided an opportunity for the children to celebrate the special bond between a child and their grandparents. The children engaged in a whole host of activities including performing songs for their visitors, creating family trees and paired artwork. Aaron Maguire and his grandad then treated all in attendance to a rendition of 'The Marino Waltz' on the tin whistle and fiddle. All the staff and children of Scoil Bhríde were delighted with the attendance and enjoyed it immensely. We hope that all of the grandparents enjoyed sharing their memories with us on the day.

SEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE

Seachtain na Gaeilge was a huge success again this year as the children participated in a range of activities to celebrate our traditions, culture and language. They performed their own Irish songs at assembly, attended concerts by renowned celtic band 'The Gypsy Kings' and well known local musician Sean Norman's Ceili band, learned to dance a jig at the ceili, took part in quizzes and art competitions through *Gaeilge* as well as participated in the prestigious 'Gaeilgoir na Seachtaine' competition. Míle buíochas to The Gypsy Kings and Sean Norman for their performances.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

During Catholic Schools Week 2014 Catholic schools were invited to celebrate and experience the joy and happiness of being part of a developing, loving and caring community. There was a number of celebrations in the school but the highlight was when the students of Scoil Bhríde, parents and all teaching staff gathered together in the halla to partake in a special prayer service. The school choir, the readers and all the children present contributed in their own special way to a memorable spiritual occasion..

WORLD AUTISM DAY

Pupils in Scoil Bhríde celebrated *World Autism Day* by having a no uniform day and wearing blue. 21 blue balloons were released by a boy and girl from all of the 21 classes in the school. The balloons were organised by Liam Muldowney to raise awareness for AADI- Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland. In total €648.37 was raised on the day and has been donated to the AADI. In addition, Natalie Murphy and Sorcha Maher visited individual classrooms to discuss Autism with the children.

ST. BRIGID'S DAY

To mark the feast of Saint Brigid, Scoil Bhríde continued some age old traditions and introduced some new ones too! Pupils and staff were delighted to welcome Mrs Mary Malone, grandmother of Casey, Jessie and Eoghan Sheridan, who visited the school to demonstrate the age old tradition of making St. Brigid's crosses to 3rd class. Meanwhile, pupils in 5th class were busy initiating what they hope will become a national tradition among schools under the patronage of St Brigid. They were actively involved in an art project and designed a beautiful St Brigid's Card to send to their nearest school under the same patronage. The lucky school was Scoil Bhríde in Croghan who then prepared a card of their own to pass to their nearest neighbouring Scoil Bhríde. Well done to all involved and a special thanks to Mary Malone and to David Brady from Scoil Bhríde Croghan.

WRITE A BOOK COMPETITION

Scoil Bhríde P.S. Entered *The Write A Book Project* again this year. This year, as a means to improve home/school involvement, parents were invited to undertake this project with their children at home. Well done to all of Scoil Bhrídes young authors and their parents for their hard work. The books have been sent to schools throughout Kildare for judging.

VISIT BY LOCAL HISTORIAN

On Thursday 27th Feb 2014, local historian Mairead Evans came in to talk to the boys and girls in First class about some of the changes that have occurred in Edenderry over the past number of years. Mairead enthralled the students with lovely stories about the town of Edenderry, about schools long ago, and the general lifestyle that people had. The boys and girls really enjoyed her visit and got a great insight into life in Edenderry in the past! Many thanks to Mairead.

TRIP TO WALLABY WOODS

On Thursday March 13th, all the children in the special classes went on a nature visit to Wallaby Woods pet farm in Donadea, Co. Kildare. The children had the opportunity to go on an interactive nature trail through the woods where they met lots of exciting animals including Wallabies, Owls and Emus!!!

RAINBOWS PROGRAMME

The Rainbows Programme is now up and running in Scoil Bhríde under its co-ordinator Mr. Carney. This will continue after the holidays for another 6 weeks.

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

Construction commenced on the new school building at Killane, Edenderry on the 6th of January 2014. The project is currently on target for completion in early 2015. If you want to track the progress of the build, view our photographs on the website.

FOOD DUDES

Scoil Bhríde is delighted to announce that the Food Dudes Programme is well underway in the school. The objective of the Food Dudes programme is to encourage children to eat more fruit and vegetables both in school and at home. The Food Dudes programme focuses on three factors: taste exposure, peer modelling and rewards. The children have had done really well consuming over 6000 portions of fruit and vegetables schoolwide in the first 3 weeks. In phase 2 of the programme with the focus on bringing in their own portions, it is clear that the eating patterns of the children have improved immensely.