

Scoil Mhuire Newsletter

Congratulations to all our children who made their First Communion and Confirmation recently. May you always believe that Jesus is your friend looking after you.

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Science and Technology in Scoil Mhuire

K'Nex Challenge

Our 5th classes experienced the world of engineering, design and technology by taking part in the K'Nex challenge. The children were given guidelines on what to construct and worked in pairs, firstly drawing plans and afterwards presenting and describing their work. The challenge they were set was to design an 'outerspace buggie'. The designs were judged by two local engineers: Mr. Victor Cooney and Ms. Anne Marie Johnston. Top marks went to Kellie Ward, Hillary Lyons, Louise Keane and Emma Mc Stay. Louise and Emma will be representing our school in the Regional Final which will be held before the end of the school year.

Science Day 10th June

Our 4th, 5th and 6th class

children have been involved in the *Discover Science Programme*, led by one of our 5th class teachers Ms. Morris. A collective project by our students has been submitted for judging. The children have undertaken many science experiments as part of this project. A display of these experiments will be given by our pupils for the public on June 10th between 4.00p.m. and 6.00p.m.. Parents are especially welcome to attend.

Green Schools

For the 3rd time our application for renewal of the International Green Flag *An Taisce* has been successful. Representatives from our school will attend the National Award Ceremony in , Dublin on the 26th May. The hoisting of our flag will be conducted during Science Day. We thank all who were



Hilary Lyons and Kelly Ward with their Space Mobile

involved in this Work Project especially Ms. Hannon who spear headed the project, each and every one of the children and staff., Ms. Burgoyne (caretaker), Ms. Igoe (secretary), the Parents' Association and the Board of Mangement. This is a project that involved all classes from infants to sixth.

Good News! Due to an extra mainstream class teacher for September 2005 we are able to keep all our classes below 29.

Some of our Junior Infants working together



Enjoying Learning about Nature

It was decided at one of our planning days to arrange an outdoor nature activity for all classes from infants—6th. Ms. Éilis Feeley (parent) met with teachers to share her expertise on the local environment. Éilis spoke with Junior and Senior infants and children in our Speech and Language class. She explained to them the importance of nature and encouraged love and respect for our local environment. Infants were brought on a

nature trail around our school where the oak tree, wild flowers etc. were pointed out to them. They were asked to listen to all the sounds and encouraged to smell and feel the nature around them. 1st and 2nd classes will be brought to our local Roscommon town park and 3rd—6th classes have already visited Moate Park with their teachers and Éilis. Sincere thanks to Éilis for all her help.

Interactive Boards

The Board of Management agreed to buy two interactive boards for the Junior and Senior sections of the school. The Interactive Board is the Blackboard of the future. The children absolutely love the boards and when asked whether they should be left in the classrooms or not they made it very clear that they wanted them to stay. We are hoping to introduce the boards into more classrooms in September 2005. Following a request from the Parents Association a demonstration of the boards for parents will take place on Science Day (June 10th). Interactive Boards are costly (5,000 euro each approx.) but we all know that using Information and Communication Technologies to teach children and motivate them to learn is the way of the future. We want the very best for all our children. They deserve it!

Sport

Art Days: Remember the fun the children had last year! Ms. O' Shea and Ms. Ward are busy preparing for what promises to be a wonderful two days for all children on the 21st and 22nd June. Thank you to all parents helping with this event.

Athletics

We are very proud of our caretaker Ms. Burgoyne who is a National Coach for Athletics. Mary met with the president Mary Mc Aleese on Thursday. Ms. Mc Aleese noted that the sun was shining and commented that people like Ms. Burgoyne bring sunshine into children's lives. Athletics is one of the strands in our Physical Education curriculum and Mary has worked tirelessly with all classes from 1st—6th in ensuring that our children are trained properly in Athletics. Thank you Mary.

Camogie commenced last February with 3rd—6th classes. Our Camogie team have had two matches against Runamoat. Today, Monday 23rd we play Lisanskey, the final match in Round 1. One of our parents Mary Mc Neill along with Ms. Connell (Special Needs Assis-

tant) is training the team. We are very grateful for all their hard work.

Gaelic team victorious

The Gaelic team have had comprehensive victories against Castlereagh and Strokestown. They are now through to the county semi-final of Cumann na mBunscoil. Well done to all involved especially our teachers Ms. Gavin and Ms. Harrison.

Soccer

We had two teams representing our school in the Ribena 5 a side competition. After a great display by both teams one of our teams got through to the final round. The final took place in Donamon Castle on the 11th May. Everyone played very well but unfortunately we weren't the winners this time. Again, well done to all involved and thank you to Ms. Gavin, Ms. Crean, John Hannon and Fred

Mulryan for all their help. Our focus this term has been on Athletics, Swimming and Outdoor activities. Subsequently we did not include soccer in this term's time-table except for 4th and 5th classes during lunch time. Soccer will resume for all classes from 1st—6th in September.

Handball and Basketball

5th and 6th classes represented the town in the Community Games Handball county final in Four Mile House recently but were narrowly defeated. Thank you to Ms. Crean (6th class teacher) for training the girls in handball. Ms. Gannon (4th class teacher) continues to train the children on Thursday evenings in Basketball. We are very grateful to the Secondary School who so kindly allow us to use their gym facilities for many of our sport activities

Staff Matters

Ms. O' Connor, our 2nd class teachers is on sick leave at present. We all hope she has a speedy recovery. In the meantime Ms. Harrison will be teaching 2nd class.

Music

Our School Band which has pupils from 2nd—6th classes took part in the first ever *Feile Ceoil Roscomáin* in the Hyde Centre last Tuesday 17th May. The girls in Fiona Doherty's Violin class played a selection of tunes followed by a senior group who played *The Blackbird*. The main band ensemble finished with some lively tunes. The girls enjoyed participating and also listening to performances from schools all over the county who performed right through the day. Thank you to Ms. Crean, Ms. Cunniffe, Ms. Doherty and Ms. Morris for all the work they put into the band.

Performances

The Mc Cormack Variety Show entertained the children with a variety of circus acts, including juggling, acrobatics and of course a very silly clown on May 5th in our school hall. The children really enjoyed the performance.

On May 30th the West Midland Children's Theatre will perform the King of Copenhagen in the school for all children. This is an adaptation of Hans Anderson's classic tale which includes many opportunities for audience participation.

Parents Association

On behalf of all the staff I want to thank the Parents Association for all their help throughout the year. I want to thank our parent representatives on the **Board of Management:** Noel Feeley, Bronwyn Lyons and John Walker. Parents worked with us on the following: **Sport** (thank you Mary Mc Neill, and all the parents who helped with transport to and from matches), new **School Uniform** which will be phased in for infants from September 2006 (thank you Tina Doran, Anna Flanagan, Rena Fleming, Nuala Hughes, Louise Ward) **Healthy lunch policy** for implementation in September 2005 (Thank you Anna Flanagan, Mary Garvey and Mary Lowry) **Parent/Teacher Communication Policy**, **Traffic situation** which involved meetings with the County Council (thank you Nuala Hughes and Louise Ward) **Communion Party** (thank you to all the par-

ents involved including Kathleen Shanagher for arranging group photo of communicants) **Relationships and Sexuality Education** (thanks to the parents who travelled to Carrick on Shannon Education Centre to attend training for parents especially Verona Mc Stay for feeding back to the Parents Association) **K'Nex Challenge** (thank you Brian Quigley for getting us engineers), Stephanie Cullen for her help with the **School Crest**, Jerome Cullen for his help with drafting the school **Swimming** programme, parent representatives who attended our **Green Flag** functions, parents who helped prepare children for quizzes, swimming and community games. I have not mentioned you all by name because so many of you helped in many different ways behind the scenes. Go raibh a míle maith agaibh go léir.



Representatives from 5th class show their *Green School* project

Library Books : Ms. Crehan, Ms. Cunniffe and Ms. O' Shea are in the process of purchasing ancillary books and supplementary readers for all our class libraries. We would be very grateful if parents would donate books to us that their children enjoyed reading and are not using now. Books in good condition only please.