

June 2014

Scoil Mhuire Primary School Newsletter

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Each person through positive learning experiences will be stimulated to achieve his/her full potential, face life confidently, find fulfilment and be respectful in an ever-changing world.



We will raise our 8th Green Flag on SPORTS DAY, this Tuesday 10th June.

We are one of the few schools in Ireland to have eight Green School flags and we are very proud of it. Our theme this year was *Biodiversity*. Thank you Ms. Ward and Ms. Duignan and all the teachers for helping us get the award. Tara Crowley

Digital School of Distinction awarded to Scoil Mhuire

Our school has been awarded a digital schools award - the first school in County Roscommon to be awarded. A lovely lady came into our school to see all the technology we use. She brought a big camera with her to record us using the technology. We use on-line “Mangahigh”. We also use “Educreations”. We also used “Scratch” on the laptops. We use ipads in all the classes, every week. We love technology. Thank you Ms. Crean for all you do. Katie Hand, Clara Dunne and Éadaoin Killian

Coder Dojo

Coder Dojo is a global network of clubs that teach young people in areas specialising in computer programming and computer technology. Coder Dojo was first introduced to Ireland in 2011. Our school started a Coder Dojo club on Friday 2nd May, 2014. The club is open to 3rd—6th class students and is run by Pádraig Gubbins (parent) and supported by Sandra Crean and Úna Feeley. The club takes place every Friday from 6pm - 7pm. There are 12 students with their parents participating in the club. *Scratch* is the computer programme that we use in our club. So far we have learned to make our own games and do animations. This is a fun way of learning all about computer programming! Isabelle Gubbins

School Tours

Classes from 3rd - 6th are all very excited about their upcoming school tours. 3rd/4th classes will be going to Galway Aquarium and the Primary Science Experience. 5th classes will be going to Bay Sports, Athlone and finally 6th classes will be going to Horizon Activity Centre, Westport. Everyone can't wait to have loads of fun with all of their classmates!

Thanks to all our teachers for organising the tours for us. Let's hope they don't get wet!!!!??

Ella Kearney

Science Week

Science week was a week full of experiments - some new and some old. We turned into scientists for the week and carried out experiments in our classes - and yes there were some explosions! We also went over to the Convent Secondary school to do some science experiments in their science labs. We had a great time. We put an egg in a bottle, we made a volcano, we made Lava Lamps, a gum drop pyramid, saw what happened when you put Mentos in a bottle of coke etc. We really loved Science week. Science week was the 11th—15th November.

Chloe Coyle and Jacinta Mongan



Enjoying playing with puppets

Anti-bullying Campaign

This year there was a new anti-bullying campaign brought into our school. At least five awareness training exercises were carried out this school year for each class (2nd - 6th classes). The classes learned that this school is a 'telling school' and if we feel upset we should tell the teacher. We were also told that we shouldn't stand by. We should tell if we see any sign of bullying at all. We watched anti-bullying videos and listened to some anti-bullying songs. We also made anti-bullying posters to highlight to everyone what bullying is about. We enjoyed learning about what to do if we are bullied or we see someone bullied. *Rhian Monahan Murray, Katie Johnson and Helen Corcoran*

Sports

We have a lot of sports in our school. These sports include Rugby, Football, Cross Country and Athletics. Our Cross Country team had a competition in Athlone and 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th got through to the Connacht finals. Our Athletics team went to Four-Mile-House. Our 3rd/4th team came first and our 5th/6th class team second. First - 4th classes go swimming every week in the last term. They enjoy going swimming. Ms. Crean and Ms. Mc Aleer's class had Soccer every week for six weeks. They did drills and played games to help build their team work and ability to play soccer. They were divided into two groups. Adrian Carbery and Andy were their trainers. They are coaches from the Football Association of Ireland (FAI). They also talked about health and fitness. They also talked about inclusion and anti-racism. The children have been recording any extra exercise they have been doing over the six week period. *Chloe Fallon, Rachel Tarmey, Lorena Iancu.*

Enjoying playing with water



Rugby

All the classes in our school participated in Rugby training this year. Our coach was Steve - a Connacht Rugby coach. He taught us the rules and the skills of Rugby. We did lots of fun drills and games. On the 13th March, 5th and 6th classes took part in a Rugby Blitz which was held in the Community College football pitch. All 5th and 6th were divided into teams and played against each other and the Gael Scoil girls. We really enjoyed it! *Maria Duarte and Anastazya Pliszka.*

Happy Golden Book

To be put into this special book you have to keep our Golden Rules, show respect for others and always work hard. If you get into the book you get a treat from Mrs. Feeley (sweets or stickers). Children get into the Happy Golden book for being helpful. When you get into the book you feel happy about yourself. The children can also vote for the person they feel should go into the Happy Golden book. *Yasmina de Almeida Pereira and Rossalinda Gaborova*

Lamb Festival

This year on Friday 2nd May, twenty 6th class girls from our school walked down to the Square to go to the Lamb Festival. We were split into groups and each group did a different activity. We made vinegar mice, owl cushions, note books, knitting and spinning wool. We also got to try a few food samples and saw a cooking demonstration and we also got to try some international foods. Mrs. Dolan went around and took pictures of us doing our activities. Noel Molloy gave a presentation of his work. He showed us some statues he made out of knives, forks and spoons. There was nice music, delicious food and fun activities. We had a really good time at the Roscommon Lamb festival.

Rachel Somers and Andreina Carvalho

Both junior and senior pupils have enjoyed our playground equipment. Some of the younger children started to call it the *Jungle Gym* and the name has stuck. We think it's a cool name!

After School Activities

In our school we have after-school activities including Band, Golf, Speech and Drama, Football, Camogie, Basketball, Ballet, Accordion, Mixed Crafts, Chinese Mandarin, Chess, Homework club and Violin. We would like to thank all the teachers who provide these activities for us and also people from outside who help our school run these activities - Martha Gleeson, Ruth and Patricia Mc Dermott and Philip Murphy a professional golfer. Thank you Ms. Acton for organising the activities. *Zara Hunt and Ciara Towey*

Art Competitions

This year we had many different entries in Art competitions. Katie Harlow and Antonina Pliszka both won the under 12's *Community Games* competition and Hannah Farnon and Lucy Henderson won the under 14's *Community Games* competition. Solomia Ivanenko's art was chosen to be displayed in the *Famine Museum* in Strokestown. Patrycja Karas, Emily Horan, Martyna Szela and Stacey M. Reith won the *Road Safety* competition. Lucy Henderson came overall 3rd place in the *An Post Rás* competition and received a jersey on stage at the finishing line on the 18th May. Well done to everyone. *Stacey Reith and Lucy Henderson*

Art Centre Visits

In February, 5th and 6th went to the Arts Centre to watch a play titled 'Mr Foley the Radio Operator'. They also got to talk to the actor playing the part of Mr. Foley and pick us some acting tips! 3rd class went to the play 'The Night Before Christmas' in December. Later this week some of our students go to see another production 'Bláth'. They really enjoyed watching everyone on the stage and walking down to the Arts centre. *Lucy Henderson*



The Amazing Teachers in our School!

The teachers in our school are amazing. They help us when we need it the most. They've helped us through the good and bad. They make sure we know everything even when we don't want to learn it (e.g. Irish grammar). We do loads of hard work but we definitely have loads of fun as well. We would like to thank all the teachers who have supported us the past eight years. We will miss ye loads.

Amy Mc Neill, Aoibhe Kelly and Julia Makowska.

Sixth Class

As this is our final year of primary school we would like to point out a few things we enjoyed but first we would like to tell you that 6th class was the best year ever and we will really miss this school. We got our posts of responsibility at the start of the year. We go every break and lunch time to more junior classes to help the teachers on duty. We feel so responsible that the teachers trust us to do this job.

We had great fun on the 16th December selling cakes and made over €800. That €800 has now turned into a playground or as we call it the *Jungle Gym*. On the 8th May all the 6th class went out to Four-Mile-House where we met up with the students from the Abbey NS, Kiltewan and the Gaelscoil for our retreat. We were out there for the whole day and had a lovely Mass at the end. On the 10th May we made our Confirmation and we had a lovely day with our families and friends and we are now filled with the Holy Spirit. We got our navy hoodies with all our names on the back. As only 6th class get them we were very proud and happy to wear them. On the 19th June sixth class will be having our Graduation Mass. We have been making up songs which we are enjoying. It will be a very special night for us as we sign off from primary school.

Mairéad, Saoirse, Louise, Alexia, Roksana.

The Speech and Language class

We can't wait to go to Glendeer Pet Farm this month. We are so excited about going on the bus, playing in the play area and feeding the animals and having lunch out together.

We really want to thank our teacher Ms. Healy and Ms. Coen for looking after us and minding us. They take great care of us. We will miss them next year. *Peter Henry, Oisín Rolston, Adam Fallon and Ciara Connolly.*

The County Fleadh - a report from our 4th class pupils

We were looking forward to this day for three months. It was on Easter Monday in Elphin. We were feeling mixed emotions. Claire Brennan was playing the tin-whistle, as was Holly. Mikayla played the button accordion. When we arrived the duets were on. We had to wait for the trios. Finally we were called up. We played two tunes - Father Kelly's Reel and Joe Cooley's Jigs. After all the groups were done, the judges called us up to get our medals as we had got 3rd place. We got a bronze medal in a little bag. We were so proud of ourselves and very relieved that we had achieved a 3rd. We loved our day and hope it happens again. The band also played at the Féile Ceoil in Athlone in April. It was really fun. It was worth all the practising.

Holly Harkins, Claire Brennan, Mikayla Martin.

Future builders or architects?



Future Scientists?



Féile Drámaíochta

5th and 6th classes performed in the Féile Drámaíochta on the 13th February this year. There were three different plays titled Taibhsí Loch Léin, Codladh Céad Bliain and an tAsarlaí ó hOz. All the classes felt nervous and excited about going on stage. They loved putting on make-up, costumes and dances together. Taibhsí Loch Léin got through to the All-Ireland but unfortunately did not win. Everyone had so much fun. Thank you Ms. Morris and Ms. Casey. *Jade Gallagher and Rute Marques*

The Book Fair

The book fair was held from Monday 24th to Friday 28th of February. It was held in the computer room. The books displayed were suitable for 2-14 year olds. You could also buy stationery, notebooks, rulers etc. There were fiction, non-fiction, action, adventure, colouring books, sticker activity books etc. It started at 9.15 am and ended at 4pm. Students went to the book fair after school and/or with their classes. Thank you parents, Ms. Morris and Ms. O'Shea.

Thays Alves Ferreira and Abigail Mongan

Spikeball/ Volleyball

Every Monday we trained for Spikeball. Our training lasted for one hour per session. We trained for six weeks in the secondary school gym. Our Transition Year trainers were Rebecca and Nicole. Only the 5th classes did Spikeball. Our Spikeball blitz was on a Friday. We played against the Abbey NS and the Gael Scoil all Friday afternoon. We got split into groups A, B, C, D. Six teams played per round. At the end the Abbey National school won! We tried our best. The good thing was we got water, crisps and sweets, Yum!! It was a great day and full of fun! Thank you Ms. Ní Dhonncha.

Rachel Prendergast and Alicia Greene

Art Week

Art Week was last week, the 2nd - 6th June. It is a week full of fun for everyone. It happens every year for a week with each class getting a full day of activities. The activities that took place this year were singing, percussion, dance, art, cooking, puppets. It's an enjoyable day and one of the best times of the year! A big thank you to Junior De Larina (parent) and team for doing a wonderful workshop on Puppets which we all loved. Thank you to all our visitors who made Arts week so successful. Thank you to teachers Ms. Crehan and Ms O' Shea. You're stars!

Hazel Murray and Kayleigh Golden

Playground Zones

Every week the 5th class do zones in our school yard. We are split into two teams. Team 1 does zones for one week and Team 2 does it the following week. At the front yard there are balls, skipping ropes, hula hoops and novelty games. At the back yard there are relay races, football and hula hoops. Zones that children enjoy at the front yard are balls and hula hoops. At the back yard they enjoy playing football and relay races. We like doing our zones. *Dania and Ruby.*

The Spelling Bee

After Christmas the 5th and 6th classes took part in a spelling bee which went to sudden death between Patrycja Karas and Elisha Kerr. Patrycja won and got through to the county final in Boyle. Mrs. Igoe and Ms. Casey brought Patrycja and two other girls from her class to Boyle. Unfortunately, she did not get through to the Connacht final but she did very well. On the way back to school they stopped at Supermacs and got a treat. It was a great day and an amazing experience. *Patrycja Karas and Sinéad Kelly*



Our Spelling Bee Patrycja Karas



Niamh Crowley enjoying cooking during Art week

Thank you to our 5th/6th class pupils who help teachers every day. We want to thank in particular our 6th class pupils who have been wonderful role models to our younger pupils. We are very proud of each and every one of you.



FAMILY FUN DAY, Saturday 14th June

Thank you to over 90 of our parents who have volunteered to help out on Family Fun Day. All families in Scoil Mhuire community are invited to this **free event** (Mums, Dads, sisters, brothers and grandparents only). Due to large numbers we ask you not to invite extended family or friends. Tickets will be given out to children this week in school. Please God the sun will shine!

SPORTS DAY, note change of day/date to Wednesday 11th June

Once again Ms. O' Connor has organised activities for Sports Day. Thank you to all our parents (over 40 of you) who have volunteered to help on the day. We look forward to having a wonderful day.

CAMOGIE AND GAELIC

The schools Camogie and Gaelic teams are currently competing in Cumann na mBunscoil competitions. We thank their coaches Ms. Connell, Ms. Kilcullen, Ms. Mc Aleer and Ms. Mc Dermott. We also want to thank Michael Carroll and Gerry Morris. Our Camogie team is through to the county final this Wednesday. Our 5th and 6th class players went to meet and greet the GAA president Liam O' Neill earlier in the year.

BICYCLE WEEK STARTING THE 16TH JUNE. Children are encouraged to cycle to school this week and to make a real effort in particular on Wednesday 18th.

Note from the Parents Association

The Parents Association Committee would like to thank Mrs. Úna Feeley and all the staff and parents of Scoil Mhuire who joined and helped with the numerous activities we organised this year including: Halloween & St Patrick's Day dress up days; Lenrec clothing recycling collections; Christmas Carol singing; Christmas Concert Raffle; Easter egg raffle; Church Gate Collection; Communion Party & Photographer; **Second-hand uniforms sale on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th June (children do not have to wear uniform the last week)**; and refreshments for incoming Junior Infants at the Information Evening last Thursday.

Mrs. Feeley and staff appreciate the genuine support the Parents Association committee give to us and all the work they do for our school community. Go raibh a míle maith agaibh.

A special thank you to all our parents and grandparents who visited our school every week to help the teachers hear the children reading: Mary Ward, Mary Tully, Siobhán Martin, Antoinette Garvey, Anna Geraghty, Teresa Corcoran, Deirdre Crowley, Catia Sutton, Tatiana Pliszka, Mary Lanigan and May McBride. They are a huge help to both teachers and children. Thank you to all parents who supported the *Do this in Memory of Me* programme and all the parents who helped with Masses including the choir. **Our choir will sing at the 10.30 Mass on the 22nd June.**