



Scoil Ghráinne CNS Newsletter

March 1, 2018

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back after the unexpected school closures as a result of Storm Emma meeting the Beast from the East. The school is awaiting confirmation from the Department of Education in relation to any actions that the school must take and we will keep the school community informed.

We have decided to update our school tracksuit. A sample of the new tracksuit is currently on display in the school reception area if you'd like to take a look. The new tracksuits will be available in the school early in June and from Grants of Manor Street thereafter. For the next academic year (2018/19) Junior and Senior Infants will wear the school tracksuit on a daily basis and there will be no need to purchase a full school uniform. Grants of Manor Street currently have some excess stock of the current school tracksuit which they have agreed to sell at a 50% discount. We hope to phase-out the current tracksuit to the new school tracksuit over the next academic year.

Thank you to all the parents who helped out covering our library books. We are almost there in terms of setting up the new library and we hope to have an official opening in the coming weeks.

Many thanks,

Ken Scully

DATES TO REMEMBER

Bank holiday Monday: March 19th

Easter Holidays: School closes Friday March 23rd @ 12 and reopens Monday April 9th.

Book Fair: The school book fair is here from Monday March 12th until Thursday March 15th. Please come and support us as we are hoping to get loads of books for our new library!

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to Ellen and Louis Nowak Ní Cheallaigh Mammy for donating a jigsaw and cushion; to Jack and Noah McCabe's Mammy for donating a bike and library books and to the Van Der Mescht family for donating books for our new library.

Junior Infants have been learning about Spring and planting seeds. We really enjoyed the story 'The Smartest Giant in Town'. We made our own cut out giants and dressed them. We loved last month's theme 'clothes'. We love to dress up in Junior Infants! We are also loving our GAA training.

Senior Infants have all been getting new readers for Daily 5 and our reading is getting so much better. We loved gymnastics during PE and were all learning to do the forward roll. We have been learning about lot of different things, from Fairytales to Zoo Animals to signs of Spring. In art, we have been creative making ladybirds, trains, flowers and even dragons! In SPHE we have been talking about the new Stay Safe programme, and learning how to keep ourselves safe. Make sure to ask us the "Stay Safe rules" to see if we can remember them! We are looking forward to Spring and hoping the warm weather comes soon

Croí - Ms. Egan's class we have been practicing our predicting skills when reading a story. We love to guess what might happen next in the story. We have been reading the stories *Little Tiger in the Jungle*, *Peekaboo Penguins*, and *Dear Zoo*. We have been learning the vocabulary for 'Weather' and 'Clothes'. This term, we have been going swimming every Wednesday. We have been practicing the rules of water safety in entering and exiting the pool, as well as learning new skills in floating and moving through the water. Most of all, we love having fun together. Swimming is our favourite time of the week.

First class have been learning about fire safety and the work of firefighters. We made sky scrapers in art with inspiration for James Rizzi. In Maths we are learning all about fractions as well as 3D shape.

Second class have been learning all about Our School and Community. We have been looking at what school was like in the past. Ms Dunne's class have been doing some lessons in the outdoor classroom when the weather is nice!! In the run up to St Patrick's Day we will be learning all about Ireland and myths and legends of the country. We have also been listening to traditional Irish music.

Third class have been learning about Fractions. We have also been learning about the different patterns, colours and materials used in clothing design and have designed and sewn our own t-shirts. We are composing our own songs in music using percussion instruments and body percussion. We have also been exploring the different ways that music can be written down and recorded. We have been writing and editing narratives during English lessons and written short stories for our class library.

Fourth class have had great fun for the last few weeks in PE learning all sorts of moves and balances for gymnastics. In history, we have learned loads about World War II and in geography we have been learning all about Germany. We are working really hard on our projects and should be ready to present them soon. We have all been making a really big effort to work on *Getting Along*.

Fifth class have been learning all about World War 1. We examined timelines from during that period, looking at how the war began, what countries were involved and what life was like for the people during and after the war. We are doing projects based on the Great War, which we are looking forward to presenting. We are also very busy taking part in the Scoil Ghráinne Write a Book project, and are currently editing, redrafting and publishing our narrative stories. In geography, we are learning all about various types of weather and climates, identifying the instruments which are used to measure different weather types and the climates of many countries around the world. In Gaeilge we have also enjoyed practising using some new phrases relating to 'an aimsir', while role-playing as weather forecasters.

Sixth class have been working on our narrative writing. We are half way through an eight week process. When we are finished, we will all have created a four or five chapter book. The process that we are undertaking is; writing a draft, then a second draft and finally a published version. It is a lot of work but we are really enjoying it. We look forward to being able to show our finished narrative writings to the school.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

In February the committee elected a new Chairperson (Angela O'Doherty) and Secretary (Alice Kelly). Debbie Brady will continue as Treasurer. The committee members would like to thank outgoing Chair, Emer Lynch, for all her hard work and dedication over the past eight years. We hope to be able to live up to the standard that Emer has set in raising much needed funding for vital school projects. We would also like to thank everyone for their contributions to the Winter Raffle which took place before the holidays in December. We are delighted to report it was very successful and supported with great prizes, by many local businesses. The raffle raised almost €5,000 which goes towards the new school library which will be opening in the near future. A good number of parents recently helped with book covering for the library and found it a great way of getting to meet other parents. Valentine's Day was another great success raising just over €800 and we extend thanks to everyone who contributed. Our next fund raising event is the Spring Raffle which will take place on the 21st of March. Each classroom will have a Cadbury Giant Easter Egg to raffle amongst the children. Tickets are €1 and will be available from the class teacher from the 6th until the 20th of March. Finally, the Parents Association is an important part of the operation of the school and we would like to invite you, if you have even a little time to spare, to join us. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th of March at 9.00am in the teachers' staff room, if you would like to come along.



MS.MCDEVITT

This month we are dedicating our staff profile to Ms. Deirdre McDevitt. Unfortunately, Ms. McDevitt passed away last month. Ms. McDevitt was the first SNA (Special Needs Assistant) in Scoil Ghráinne and we all miss her terribly. She started when the school opened in the prefabs in 2008. Ms. McDevitt is from Portmarnock. She was always talking about her daughter, Caroline (23) and her son Brian (21). Ms. McDevitt was a real family woman and spent every Thursday going to the cinema with her parents and brothers and sisters. She especially enjoyed getting pampered on spa days with her sisters. She loved travelling to Scotland to see her sister. Ms. Devitt was a trained chef before she joined us at Scoil Ghráinne, so we all loved when it was her turn to bake for 'cake day' in the staff room! She loved getting spoilt on her birthday but she'd never tell you her age! Ms. McDevitt started up our school garden and the children used to love going out and spending time with her to plant seeds. Deirdre was a thoughtful, fun, chatty and hardworking colleague who loved to socialise. Her favourite part of the day was when the teacher did dancing with the class as she loved anything musical and enjoyed dancing and singing along herself. Her favourite student Adam said, "I'll miss her the most. I'll miss dancing and singing to Justin Bieber with her".