



Scoil Ghráinne CNS Newsletter

January, 2017

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On the 30th of January, at the Community Credit Union quiz which took place in the Carlton Hotel in Tyrellstown, Scoil Ghráinne had 3 teams in action and we were delighted that one of our teams managed to win the quiz. Well done to all involved and to the staff members who helped the children to prepare.

Over the coming weeks we look forward to Internet Safety talks for our 5th and 6th class children. There will also be an Internet Safety talk for parents taking place on Tuesday the 28th of February at 7pm in the school hall. I will send out more information and a reminder closer to the time. This promises to be a worthwhile and informative session that will be hosted by our Community Garda.

I would like to thank Dana, mother of Jaspreet in Mrs. O'Connor's first class for voluntarily establishing and continuing to run our school's Facebook page. Lots of upcoming events and links to the school website can be found on our page. The page is intended for the parents from Scoil Ghráinne and is another way in which you can find out more about what's going on in our school. We have over 100 followers at present, so why not search Scoil Ghráinne on Facebook to find out more.

Many thanks,

Ken Scully

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wear Blue to school: Friday February 3rd the Sam Maguire Cup is coming to visit! We are all welcome to wear Blue, the Dublin colours, to celebrate our county's win in the All Ireland Finals.

'Dress in Red' for Valentine's Day: Friday the 10th of February we invite all children to dress in red for Valentine's Day. We ask all children to contribute €2 as a fundraiser for our school.

Midterm Break: School closes Friday February 17th at the usual time and re-opens on Monday February 27th.

Special thanks to: Ellen & Louis Nowak O'Ceallaigh's parents and Emma Rossignuolo for kindly donating books.

Junior Infants have been learning about Houses and Homes this month. We read *The Three Little Pigs*, made some houses out of straw, sticks and bricks and even went on a houses and home walk! We spotted lots of different homes on our walk. We saw detached houses, semi-detached houses, terraces houses and apartments.

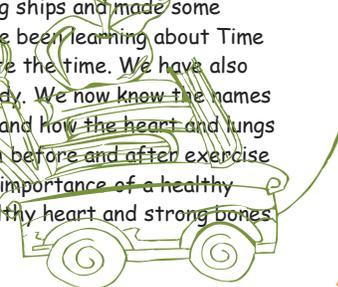
Senior Infants were all excited to be back after the winter break. In Seomra Dearg we read *The Train Ride* and learned about old and new modes of transport. We got to build our own trains during art using junk art. In Seomra Corca we read about the *Bad-Tempered Ladybird* and learned about Mini-beasts. We also talked about our feelings and emotions, and decided it wasn't fun being bad-tempered like the Ladybird. In Seomra Oraiste, we have been reading *Dear Zoo*. We used our hand prints to create our own zoo animals and performed a song called "We're Going to the Zoo" at our assembly.

Croí-Ms Ryan's Class have been busy working on different things. Some children have been enjoying working on the story "Jack and the Beanstalk", and other children have begun working on projects about Space. **Ms Egan's class** have been reading the story *Peace at Last*. We loved listening to all the noises that stop poor Mr. Bear from falling asleep. We worked together to create a fantastic Art display of the story. We are also learning about 'Day-time' and 'Night-time'. We learned two new questions "Where?" and "What is the weather like today?"

First Class have been learning about Light and Sound. We sketched each other's shadows and we played with our shadows in the yard, we did experiments with light and sound in class. We are learning more about tens and units in maths and An Aimsir (the Weather) in Gaeilge. When we are doing our readers at home ask us about comprehension. We are focusing on that aspect this month.

Second class have been learning all about 'Light and Electricity'. We learned about the fantastic inventions of Thomas Edison. We looked at the invention of the hot water bottle and how hot water bottles have changed through the years. In Maths, the children have really enjoyed learning about halves and quarters in fractions. In English, they have been learning to write and follow procedures. In Gaeilge, they have been learning about 'Caiteamh Aimore' (Our Hobbies).

Third class! In History have been learning about the Vikings. We have been learning about where they came from, how they dressed, the work they did every day and compared this to our lives today. We painted long ships and made some Viking jewellery. In Maths we have been learning about Time and practising how to tell and write the time. We have also been learning about the human body. We now know the names of some of the bones in our body and how the heart and lungs work. We recorded our pulse both before and after exercise and have been learning about the importance of a healthy diet and exercise to ensure a healthy heart and strong bones.



Fourth Class have been looking at Maori tribes in New Zealand. Fourth class have learned all about Maori tattoos, their significance and even had a go at designing their own Maori masks (complete with tattoos!). Fourth class have also been looking at Engineering and what engineers do. We discussed problems we had and then 'engineered' solutions to them.

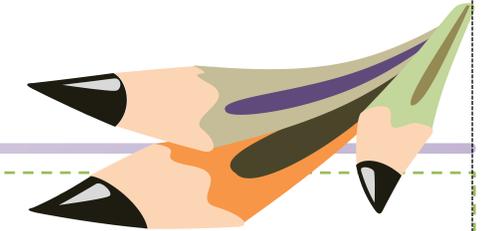
Fifth Class This month has been a very busy month in 5th class! We have been doing lots of creative work in English as our focus this term is on narrative writing. The teachers are really looking forward to reading all the wonderful stories that the boys and girls from 5th class will come up with :) We have also been learning all about Ancient Egypt in history as well as modern day Egypt in Geography.

Sixth Class have been doing a lot of work on engineering, inventions and creating. In science they were discussing the process for engineering and how things are created as a result of wants and needs. In art at the moment the children are trying their hand at some sewing to create their own puppets. They are also learning about how rivers create and engineer the landscape through erosion and deposition.

CHINESE NEW YEAR



Chinese people name their years after 12 animals. This year is the Year of the Rooster. Chinese New Year is a holiday celebrating the beginning of a New Year. It starts on Jan 31st and lasts for more than 2 weeks. Before the first day of Chinese New Year, families clean their homes from top to bottom to clear out any bad luck from the last year and to get the house ready for good luck in the New Year. But be careful: all the cleaning has to be finished before **New Year's Day** so there's no chance of accidentally throwing out the good fortune of the New Year. Also, before **New Year's Day**, you're supposed to buy new clothes or cut your hair in order to have a fresh start. And never, ever wear black during Chinese New Year - it's bad luck. Red is the colour of good luck, so wearing lots of red is encouraged. Families decorate their houses with lights outside their homes- a bit like our Christmas lights. On New Year's Eve, decorations (hui chun) made from red and gold paper are hung on the doors. They are to bring good luck, happiness and long life for the coming year. "Kung Hei Fat Choy!" Have a happy and prosperous New Year



Ms. Carry

Introducing Ms. Helen Carry! Ms. Carry came from the heritage town of Kells in Co. Meath. This is her third year teaching in Scoil Ghráinne and she loves it here. This year, Ms. Carry is teaching 5th class. Her favourite subjects to teach are Maths, History and PE. Ms. Carry is the only girl in her family, she has three brothers, just like Ms. Scully! Her whole family are Gaelic football fanatics. She loves supporting my local GAA club Drumbaragh and of course the Meath Gaelic football team. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Care from Dublin Institute of Technology and before becoming a teacher she worked as a support worker with the School Completion Programme for five years. During that time she completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Primary Education from Hibernia College and then taught for two years in Co. Meath, before coming to teach here. Ms. Carry is involved in training the girls GAA team in the school and helped set up the Rainbows Programme. She enjoys going to exercise classes and spending time with family and friends. Like most of our staff, Ms. Carry has the travel bug. She has travelled around Australia, America, Asia and many different European countries. She's a bit of a daredevil and did a 16,000 ft sky dive while she was in Australia! Ms. Carry's enthusiasm to participate in school activities and try new initiatives is inspiring! Ms. Carry is so approachable and chatty to both students and staff alike.