



Scoil Muire Bannrion



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A Message From Our School Principal

We are now drawing close to the end of what was a very busy first term in Edenderry Boys National School. On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you, the parents for your continued support and wish you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.



We Are Mad About Music!



Our School Band!

This year's new school band members are Daniel Lawton, Billy Corrigan, Billy Yan, Sanjay Shriharisha, Jayson Yip, Conor McGrath, John Gorman, Jordan Alatische, Darragh Norman, Kacper Gibas, Sean Cullinan, Paddy O' Sullivan, and Junior Rahman. Their debut performance will take place on Tuesday 16th December at the upcoming Christmas Concert. They will perform their very own cover version of the song 'Budapest'. Ms. Blain has been helping them practice over the past few weeks! We look forward to hearing their performance!



School Choir

The School choir have been very busy this year preparing for the Christmas season. On Sunday 7th December, they sang at the Town Hall for the lighting of the tree. They also sang at the carol service last Thursday night 11th December and will sing again at mass on Christmas Eve.

Next Thursday, 18th December, the boys will be singing carols at various locations around the town. This is the 48th consecutive year that the boys school has been part of this tradition. They will begin at 6.30pm at Castleview. They will then sing at Ofalia house, Blundell Wood, Brady's Centra and Tesco respectively.



The boys are also preparing for our upcoming Christmas Concert which will be performed for parents on Tuesday 17th December at 1.30.

The boys have worked so hard preparing the carols. A special thanks to Mrs. O'Neill who has worked very hard training them. We look forward to hearing the boys again at the Christmas concert and on Christmas Eve mass at 7pm!

Hallelujah Concert



This December, Miss Flaherty's and Miss Hanrahan's class took part in a very large concert called the Hallelujah Concert in City West in Dublin. This is the fourth year our school has taken part. Choirs of children from all parts of the country came together to sing in one large communal choir. Hundreds of children (plus teachers!) sang many songs of different styles from Irish Ballads to Pop songs. They also performed alongside, 'Hometown,' Ireland's newest pop sensation managed by Louis Walsh and Tabby who appeared on the X factor. This was a huge achievement for the children and teachers involved. The boys thoroughly enjoyed their performance and it is an experience that will stay with them for many years to come. We are already looking forward to taking part in next years concert.



Bodhrán Workshops

Our 4th, 5th and 6th classes participated in a number of bodhrán workshops presented by Miss Flaherty. Our students really enjoyed themselves and learnt to play a number of simple beats and rhythms to reels, and jigs. Some of the students even had the opportunity to compose their own rhythmic pieces.



Green Schools News

We are currently striving to achieve our sixth green schools flag for 'Global Citizenship and Litter and Waste Management'. As part of the drive towards achieving this flag we organized two initiatives aimed at helping those who are less fortunate than us in developing countries.

Bóthar

On Wednesday November 19th we were fortunate enough to have a visit from Niamh from Bóthar to thank us for all our good work for raising money for Bóthar. For our Halloween holiday dress up we managed to raise nearly €300 for Bóthar and this money has been used to buy a mountain goat for a village in West Africa. During her visit to our school Niamh explained to all our students the work that Bóthar is doing in less fortunate countries than our own and how the money that our students raised is being put to such good work.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Over the last number of weeks we have been promoting our annual Christmas Shoebox appeal. Over the years we have been hugely fortunate to have tremendous support from parents and students in promoting this hugely worthy cause. This year proved to be no exception as we had a huge donation of shoeboxes which were collected from our school by members of Team Hope Ireland. We know that these small gifts will make a massive difference in the lives of the children that are less fortunate than ourselves.

We would like to say a big thank you to all the families that supported this undertaking.



Garden Bird Survey

As well as striving to achieve our sixth flag, we must also maintain our other five flags. As part of this process, we are taking part in this year's Garden BirdWatch Survey. We have already spotted 12 different species of birds in our school grounds this week.

ICT and Literacy Workshop

On Monday November 17th, Ms. Fitzsimons 5th class students took part in an ICT and Literacy Workshop hosted by Ian Jackson. The boys were shown how to create picture stories using the paint programme available on our computers. It's part of a six week tour of Irish schools that Ian is on and is hugely beneficial to our students as it shows yet another example of how ICT can be used in our school environment to further develop literacy skills.



Author Visits

Author Liam Farrell came to visit our school last month. He came to talk to our second and third class and told them about some of the books he has written



Science Week

All classes were very busy throughout science week this year (November 10th-14th). This year's theme was 'The Power of Science'.

A huge variety of experiments were undertaken by the boys during the week. Some examples include - lava lamp, bouncy custard, simple machines, and experiments to demonstrate that light is made up of 7 different colours.

On Friday the 14th of November, a science workshop was held in the school hall where the boys had the opportunity to showcase their experiments to parents. A big well done to all the classes for creating their experiments and a big thank you to all the parents / guardians /neighbours for coming to see our demonstration. The boys had great fun participating in Science Week and can't wait for next year!



Sky Dome

To celebrate Science Week 2014, we had a special visit from The Sky Dome Experience. The Sky Dome is an inflatable dome with a projector in the centre which projects images of constellations, stars, planets and galaxies! We learnt lots of interesting facts.

For more pictures from Science Week visit our school website.

OSPCA Visit

On Thursday 13th November Siobhán Bolger, the Education Welfare Officer for the Offaly branch of the Society of Cruelty to Animals along with her loyal sidekick Henry the dog presented a very informative workshop to our students. During the discussion the boys were introduced to the best practice of looking after pets in ways such as micro-chipping, grooming and feeding. The boys were absolutely fascinated by the presentation and it really brought home to them how much care and attention a pet needs. On behalf of the whole school, our 6th class students presented Siobhán with a donation for the OSPCA at the end of the talk.



Parents Association Fundraiser

Our Parents Association raised over €700 in their annual fundraising Fashion Show on Wednesday in Diamonds & Pearls. Well done to the winners of the raffle prizes on the day. They were Melissa Cummins, Caroline Quinn, Mary Finnegan, Catherine Byrne and Deirdre Byrne. We would like to thank our Parents Association for organising the fashion show fundraiser, Diamonds & Pearls for providing the venue and all parents who supported us by purchasing tickets.

Active Flag Update

As part of our drive towards receiving our Active Flag, we are currently working on new innovative exciting ways to encourage all pupils to become more active, including a number of lunchtime activities.

Badminton Ladder

Our lunchtime badminton ladder for senior classes is currently up and running every lunchtime.

Play Leaders

Our 6th class organise games during lunchtime for our junior classes on Tuesdays. So far they have been having great fun playing a variety of playground games including duck duck goose, stuck in the mud, bulldog, prison ball and many more.

Chess Club

As part of our Active Flag activities a chess club has started this week for our sixth class students. This has proved extremely popular with our older students and as a result we hope to roll out this initiative to the middle classes in the coming weeks.



Slogan Competition

We are currently running a competition to choose an active schools slogan for our school. We are hoping to find an encouraging and inspiring slogan to aid us in our drive towards achieving active school flag. Each pupil is currently working on his slogan. The winning slogan will be chosen before Christmas and will be announced on our school website.



Athletics Success

On November 23rd our school athletics team travelled to Portarlington to take part in a Mid-Leinster athletics event. As has become the norm our team enjoyed great success taking gold in two under 11 relays and two under 13 relays, the speed bounce, triple jump and the long jump. Our students also took medals in the 6 lap paraluuf. Our team consisted of Junior, Habib, Mimi, Lennon, Mark, Ben, Aaron, Declan, Jonathan, Leon and Lee. A big well done to the boys and a special thanks to Frank Kilrayne for coaching these talented athletes.

Specialist Teachers

This term a number of specialist teachers have shared their skills and knowledge with the boys:

- Edenderry's Derek Kelly shared his skills and knowledge of football with all classes for a number of weeks.
- As a result of the hugely successful link up with Edenderry Rugby Club, Patsy Gorman also spent a number of weeks coaching tag rugby to coach our 6th class pupils

We would like to thank Derek, and Patsy for sharing their knowledge and skills with us. And also for their time spent training the boys.

Credit Union Quiz

This years Credit Union Quiz teams have been chosen. This year we have four teams. The teams are as follows:

Third Class team: Fionn Brereton, Callum

Dunne, Sean Cullinan, and Alex Farrell

Fourth Class team: Evan Nolan, Eoghan Ryan, Alex Barry and Lee King

Fifth Class team: Michael Brady, Paul Hughes, Dean Mullally and Eammon O Connor

Sixth Class team: Lee Pearson, Ross Blong, Donal Harris and Sai Jagili.

All teams are already in training for the competition in January. We have been very successful in recent years. We hope for continued success this year.



Christmas Plays

Miss Dolan's and Miss Tyrrell's class have been working hard practicing their Christmas plays this year. They will perform them for parents on Thursday 18th December.



Decoration Time

Every year we take great pride in decorating our school for the festive season. This year was no exception. Our second and third classes worked hard decorating our beautiful Christmas trees which are on display for all to see.



Santa Claus

Santa Claus will visit all the classes in the school on Monday 15th December. All the boys are looking forward to seeing him.



Christmas Cards

Each boy had the opportunity to design and print his own professional Christmas Card.



School Notices!

Scoil Muire Banríon will close for the Christmas holidays at 12pm on Friday 19th of December. We will reopen on Monday 5th January.

Raffle

A raffle for a weekend away in a hotel along with a range of other prizes will be held next Thursday, 18th December. Anyone who bought raffle tickets for the fashion show raffle will also be included in this draw. Tickets are available to buy from the school office at a cost of €1 per strip or 3 strips for €2.

School Closures:

Mid term 19th and 20th February

St. Patrick's Day Tuesday 17th March

Easter Holidays: closing Friday 27th March, reopen Monday 13th April.

Important Dates:

Communion 16th May

Confirmation 30th May

All the staff of Scoil Muire Banríon are very proud of all our students for their fantastic success and achievements this term. **We would like to wish all our students a safe and Happy Christmas and we hope for continued success in 2015.**



