

December 2016 Newsletter

Our Lady of the Wayside National School, Kiltiernan

Dates for your diary

Thursday 22nd Dec 2016	School closes at 12 noon for Christmas holidays
Monday 09th Jan 2017	School re-opens following Christmas holidays
Monday 20th Feb 2017	Service of Light
Friday 24th March 2017	Confirmation
Saturday 20th May 2017	First Holy Communion

Message from Ms. Carson:

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our pupils, their families and members of staff a very Happy Christmas and happiness and good health in 2017.

Blessing of the Crib:

Children attended Mass in Our Lady of the Wayside Church on 8th December. Thank you to Fr. Andrew for facilitating us and also a big thanks to Ann Anderson, the Sacristan who is always so helpful to us.



Santa Walk

The children really enjoyed the Santa Walk on Sunday 4th December. This year the preparation and running of the walk was taken on by the 6th class parents.



It was a great success and many thanks are due to them for all their hard work. Thank you also to the people who directed the traffic, to our photographer and also a special word of thanks to the man himself, Santa.

Decorating our Christmas Tree:

One Christmas tradition that we have in Our Lady of the Wayside is of putting up a Christmas tree and decorating it with handmade decorations made from recycled goods. The tree is now up and we have started to decorate it.



Schedule of Christmas Plays:

Times	Fri 16th	Mon 19th	Tues 20th	Wed 21st
9am – 9.40am	Both 1st Classes	6th Ms. Donnelly	5th Ms. O'Doherty	4th Ms. Dunne
9.50am – 10.30am		3rd Ms. Burns		Jnr Infants Ms. Grier Gavin
11am – 11.45am		2nd Ms. Galavan		
12.30pm – 1.15pm			4th Mr. Kenna	6th Mrs. Gannon (1pm)

Sport in our school

Girls' Football

This year, the girls' football team got into the semi-finals. We played four matches. We won two matches and lost two. In our first match against Queen of Angels, we won by 5-6 to 0-1.

We were very happy. We trained very hard, even training during lunch break. Our captain was Louisa Greene and our vice-captain was Sarah Watts. In our second match, we beat St Clare's, Harold's Cross. **We lost our third match to Gaelscoil Chnoc Liamhna. We were ecstatic when we found out we were in the semi-finals!!!**

We left school early to go to the match. We arrived early so we started training. At half-time we were two goals down. The girls did really well in the second half. We went from 2 goals down to only 1 point. Sadly we lost by one point. We were disappointed but still proud that we made it to the semi-finals. We would like to thank Ms Gibson and Ms Galavan for preparing us for our matches.

We hope we do even better in camogie.
Louisa Greene (6th class, Mrs Gannon)
Sarah Watts (6th class, Ms Donnelly)



Rugby



De La Salle Palmerston Rugby Club, in conjunction with Leinster Rugby is engaging with schools in the area. As part of this initiative, Avon Lewis has started coaching tag rugby in our school. We are delighted to offer all children in 4th, 5th, and 6th classes the opportunity to take part in the programme.

GAA

Darren Egan from Naomh Olaf is again coaching football and hurling this year. We are pleased to offer this to all boys and girls from Senior Infants to third class this year.



Sport in our school

Swimming

Swimming is taking place and 6th, 5th and one of the 4th classes have attended so far.

Be Active ASAP

Be Active ASAP club is an after-school club run by the Active Schools Committee for 1st and 2nd class children. The aim of the club is to provide the children in these classes with an opportunity to get active after school, particularly if the children do not take part in other sports.

'We do dancing and getting fit. It is for 1st class and 2nd class only. We do levels and shapes. We do Be Active to keep our Active Flag. We do it every Thursday from 2:30 to 3:30'
Zack Vaughan and Conor Doyle (2nd class)

During the year, the children will cover the strands of Dance, Games, Athletics and Outdoor and Adventure. It is lots of fun for the children and a great way to keep active!

Keep an eye on the Active School's notice board for our progress to date and for upcoming events.



Dublin win the All-Ireland

Our school enjoyed the build up to the All-Ireland Football Final. There were posters and flags all over the school from both Mayo and Dublin.

We were all thrilled to have a visit from David Byrne, one of the Dublin Team, with the famous Sam Maguire Trophy.



Sacraments



First Communion

Date: 20th May 2017

Do This in Memory Masses

The children in Second Class have begun their **“Do this in Memory” Masses each month** in preparation for their First Penance and Communion next year.

All the Masses are prepared by parents on a special committee. They are doing a wonderful job organising each Mass and we thank them **for that. This makes the “Do this in Memory”** programme very relevant and enjoyable for the children. It really helps them to understand that they are special members of their parish.

Confirmation

Service of Light: 20th Feb 2017

Confirmation: 24th March 2017

Enrolment for Confirmation took place in the Church of the Ascension, Balally on 22nd October. The two sixth classes subsequently went on retreat to the Dominican Retreat and Pastoral Centre in Tallaght on 11th November.

This was our first time to use this venue and it seems to have been a popular choice. The pre-Confirmation Masses are taking place monthly in the Church of Our Lady of the Wayside on Sundays at 12 noon and parents have been given all the relevant dates.

Condolences

The staff and students of Our Lady of the Wayside school would like to extend our sympathies to our school chaplain Fr. Andrew on the passing of his father. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Parent-Teacher Meetings

The annual parent-teacher meetings were held on 14th and 21st November. Thank you to all for your attendance. It is very important that parents have the opportunity to speak with class teachers.

Our school trips

The Lion King

4th Class were thrilled to be invited to Rosemont's production of "The Lion King."



We were so impressed with their costumes and make-up, they were just like the movie! It must have taken ages for them to get ready! We loved all of the songs, they were very good singers. We had such a great time.

I know it is difficult sometimes to “get off work” to come to these meetings and we do try to accommodate people in this regard. I want to particularly thank the teachers for the time they put into these meetings and for the efforts they make to ensure that everyone can be facilitated. Ms. Carson

Power Hour

The Power Hour takes place in Senior Infants and First Class.

This involves “station teaching” in the classes. So far this year Ms. Martin’s first class has availed of this and Ms. Hurley’s Senior Infants are currently involved.



National Concert Hall

The First Classes went to Music in the Classroom in the NCH.



Art Competition

Congratulations to Leah Murphy in Ms.

Gibson’s third class for winning a prize in the Social Inclusion Art competition run by DLR.

Visitors to our school

Pollinator Workshop

We were one of 8 DLR Primary schools selected to benefit from a pollinator workshop. The workshop was delivered by Dale Treadwell on 6th Dec. The workshop was funded by DLRCC and DECLG.



“Bumblebee”

Tom Duffy’s Circus brought us their amazing transformer car “Bumblebee”. This was a great surprise for the children.



Relationships & Sexuality Programme

Gemma Rowley met with the parents of both 6th classes to inform them about the Relationship and Sexuality Programme which takes place each year in 6th class.

The meeting took place on 17th October and Gemma then met with the children on 24th, 26th and 27th October.

Gardening

Once again this year Aoife Munn from Windyridge came to do gardening with the children. Aoife’s love for what she does is infectious and the children from first, second and third classes went away happily with their “Sweet Peas”.



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Visitors to our school

“Birdman”

The Heritage in Schools Scheme along with our school development fund recently funded a visit from Eric Dempsey.

Eric visited our school on 25th October and enthralled the children with his presentation on birds and their feathers!



Space Week

Mission to Mars

On Friday October 7th, Ms Gannon's sixth class and their buddies in Ms Galavan's second class visited Mars. We spent 'Space Week' learning about Mars and the Solar System. We made papier maché space helmets, painted signs from Planet Mars including a Mars Rover buggy. After countdown, we took off in our space shuttle and travelled to Mars.

On Mars, tour guides revealed interesting facts about the planet and we visited Olympus Mons, the largest volcano in the solar system. We also visited Valles Marineris, the largest canyon. We placed a plaque commemorating our landing! Our day was filmed by News2Day and transmitted later that day. A fun and exciting day was had by all!



Science Week

Intel Mini Scientist

Well done to all the boys and girls and their teachers for all the hard work. Special thanks to Mrs. Gannon who co-ordinated it.

The overall winner was Thomas de Zeeuw from Mr. Kenna's fourth class.



“Fourth, fifth and sixth classes entered the Intel Mini-Scientist Competition. Children explore science through project based learning and present it in an exhibition. Our exhibition was held in each classroom on Friday November 25th.

Children worked on their projects as individuals or in groups of up to four people. They came up with their own scientific investigation. Each group had their own project presented in a project book and visual display which the judges questioned them about.

The judges viewed all the amazing projects and were very impressed. First, second and third were selected in each class. An overall winner was also selected and will represent us in the Final in Lexlip on Friday December 9th.”
Helena Gannon

Winners

4th Ms Dunne:

1st: Max Brock: Why are we able to see colour?

2nd: Sarah Mulhall and Ava Edwards: How our sense of smell affects our sense of taste?

3rd: Chloe Anne O'Connor, Lauren Toner Jordar and Pamel Cifuentes: How do stalactites form?

4th Mr Kenna:

1st: Thomas de Zeeuw: What makes nuclear energy?

2nd: Harry Shannon, Charlie Mitchell and Jake Mc Inerney: Could you power a go-kart with a magnet?

3rd: Mia McGovern, Chloe O'Connor, Sadhbh Young and Sarah Jolley: Mould

5th Ms O'Doherty:

1st: Ruby Monaghan and Laura Boyle: Sugar: Are we eating more than we think?

2nd: Maria Rose Duffy and Holly Doyle-Flemming: How vegetables affect our bodies.

3rd: Tom O'Neill, Ben O'Reilly and Oscar Marley: What is evolution?

6th Ms Donnelly:

1st: Sarah Watts, Cassie Harkin, Shania O'Neill and Ciara Naughton: Why are we addicted to sugar?

2nd: Jack Doyle and Rebecca Carthy: The effects of energy drinks on the body

3rd: John Keaveney: Survey of house light-bulbs to assess thermal efficiency

6th Ms Gannon:

1st: Eric Byrne and Liam Ongaro: Why do we need renewable energy?

2nd: Clodagh Brennan and Sarah Kealy: How do liquids affect plant growth?

3rd: Kate Fensom: Does colour influence taste?

Overall Winner:

Thomas de Zeeuw: What makes nuclear energy?

Science Week



Science Week

BT Young Scientist Primary Science Fair

Ms Gannon's sixth class have been selected to present at the BT Young Scientist Primary Science Fair. They will present their project on Saturday January 7th.

Their project is 'Does Music Affect Children's Concentration Levels and Does Genre Matter?'

Half of the children in the class play a musical instrument including clarinet, guitar, piano and drums. The class were extremely interested to see if music affected children's concentration levels. They also wanted to investigate what type of music would help concentration.

They tested six classes in school: Senior infants, second class, two fourth classes and two sixth classes. Children were tested with no music, rock music, classical music and then pop music. Data was gathered and will be examined to see if there are any correlations between different genres of music. Come to the RDS on January 7th to see their findings.



Science Lab visit

The two fourth classes went on their annual Science Laboratory visit to St. Tiernan's Community School.



Charity News:

Annual Shoebox Appeal

A huge 'thank you' to all who contributed to the Team Hope Shoe Box Appeal.



MS Readathon

The children in Ms Galavan's 2nd class took part in the MS Readathon this year. For the month of October, there was lots of reading to be done both in school and at home.

We had D.E.A.R time every day for 15 minutes and we also had Readathon homework-to read as many books as possible!! Some children even managed to read 30 books during the month.

At the end of the month, we brought in our sponsorship cards and money. Everybody made huge efforts and altogether we raised €852 for MS Ireland! It is a wonderful charity that does such important work. Not only did we help them but we also did loads of practice on our reading.

We would like to thank all of our families, friends and neighbours who sponsored us for the Readathon and we can't wait to do it again next year!



Goal Jersey Day

Our school took part in the Goal Jersey Day and raised €647.05.

Well done to all. There was a great variety of jerseys to be seen on the day!



Abbie Harkin's Focus Ireland Collection

On my birthday I asked for donations for Focus Ireland. I raised €526.75 and I did this so that I know that some homeless families will have a nice Christmas dinner—at least a meal.

My Dad made a cheque that I gave them just for show but then I gave them an envelope with the money. My sister, Mom and Dad went to get our photo taken. It was on 22.11.2016. I would recommend it because it makes you feel good!



Abbie Harkin
3rd Class

Safety Issues

Safety week took place from 28th November. The second class parents were responsible for organising this and we owe them great thanks for all their work. The safety of our children is paramount and it is always good to get reminders about good practice.

In the interests of safety, you are again reminded not to park on the yellow markings outside the school or on the footpath at the main road blocking the path for pedestrians with buggies.



Thank you!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Fiona our school warden for all her great work. Please cross with Fiona.



Preparations for the harsh winter weather!!!

Hopefully we won't experience any severe weather this winter. However, in the event of a bad spell of winter weather we will endeavour to keep the school open. If we do happen to have snow or very icy conditions, please remember that it is acceptable to drop your children to school later if you are in a position to do so.



This will ease the traffic flow and ensure a safer environment for all. If any parents are available to help clear footpaths of snow during the school week (particularly mornings) could they please leave their name and contact number with Helen in the office?

Board of Management News

As you are aware, the Board of Management is composed of community, parent and teacher representatives in addition to the Principal and Fr. Andrew. We meet once a month during term time and 2016 continues to be a very busy year.

Recent projects include conducting health & safety audits in the school (via an external company) to ensure that required standards are being met and we have purchased a Defibrillator which staff have been trained to use.

We have also ratified a new critical incidents policy details of which can be found on the school website. The website itself is being updated by our IT committee and you will see changes and improvements in the coming months. In tandem with this, a new Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) has been prepared and ratified by the Board - this too will soon be found on the school website.

We are constantly monitoring the problem of the serious traffic congestion outside the school at drop off and pick up times and we will be **liaising with the Parent's Association in this regard** to see what new safety improvements can be put in place. If you have suggestions or ideas as to how the situation can be improved, they will be welcome.

Colman Curran
Chairperson

Congratulations!

Welcome to baby Joe Lyster. Congratulations to Ms. Ciara Lyster and John on the safe arrival of Joe - baby brother to Seán.



Head lice

There have been reports of head lice again this year and letters have been sent to the relevant classes. It would be sensible, however, to check every child's hair once a report is made.



Our new Parents' Association

Chairperson: Ruth Power/Mary Clyne/
Nika Gallagher

Committee: Colette Butler Devcich
Lisa Rogerson
Dee Harpur
Trish Blee
Donna Ward
Trish Breen
Niamh Bordelet (Scott)
Colette O'Connor
Jean Jolley
Shirley Carney
Marion Greene

Board of Management Nominees:
Father Nominee: Nigel Start
Mother Nominee: Elaine Conry



Thank you from our Parent's Association

Our annual Santa Walk took place on Sunday 6th December in Djouce Woods, Enniskerry. The day was beautiful, the path was dry, Santa's grotto was festive and we had a wonderful turnout of children and parents from our school.

Our thanks go to the many people who helped make the day so special: Our wonderful Santa all the way from the North Pole, Damien Power our photographer, Evan Brennan for the music, Derek Doyle and Alan Brennan for their carpentry skills, Shane Vaughan and Cuisine de France for the delicious mince pies, Rachel Coady for the lovely doughnuts, Ger O'Driscoll for the festive outfit and Barbara O'Sullivan for the hay.

Also many thanks to Dunnes Stores Leopardstown, The Beacon and Cornelscourt, O' Briens Wine, Fern & Co restaurant, The Step Inn, Fresh in Belarmine, Dimples Crèche, the Kilternan Church of Ireland National school and the many parents for all their kind donations.

Thanks to a great team of helpers from the 6th class.

We look forward to next year!

School Development Fund

We thank all our families who continue to support the School Development Fund. The fund continues to meet the deficit in the day to day costs of running the school.

This year we also continued the ongoing maintenance with classrooms being repainted and improvements to several areas of the school.



The fund also meets the cost activities such as the Sean Nos Dancing and fun golf days which have been enjoyed by everyone in the school.



Lots of additional equipment for maths and fun learning have also been purchased during the year.

As a Digital School of Distinction we are committed to continuing to invest in IT equipment and resources for our pupils. We are planning to purchase 32 laptops early in the new year to facilitate hands on IT learning for all our pupils. This is a really significant and important investment for our school and will benefit all of our students.



We will keep you updated in the new year on this exciting project.

**Wishing you a
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year**

Defibrillator

The school purchased a defibrillator in August. It is located on the wall beside the fire exit in the staff car park. We would encourage all parents to familiarise themselves with its location. We are grateful to Green Auto Services for purchasing the outdoor cabinet where it is housed. This ensures that it is available to anyone in the vicinity of the school who may need assistance.



All the school staff attended a training session in CPR and defibrillator use in September. As a community initiative Lettie McCarthy recently organised a CPR course which was held in the Samuel Beckett Centre. Five parents from our school attended this course. It is hoped to organise a training evening in the school in the new year for parents.

The cost of the defibrillator and staff training was met by the Development Fund.

