

Ballygar National School

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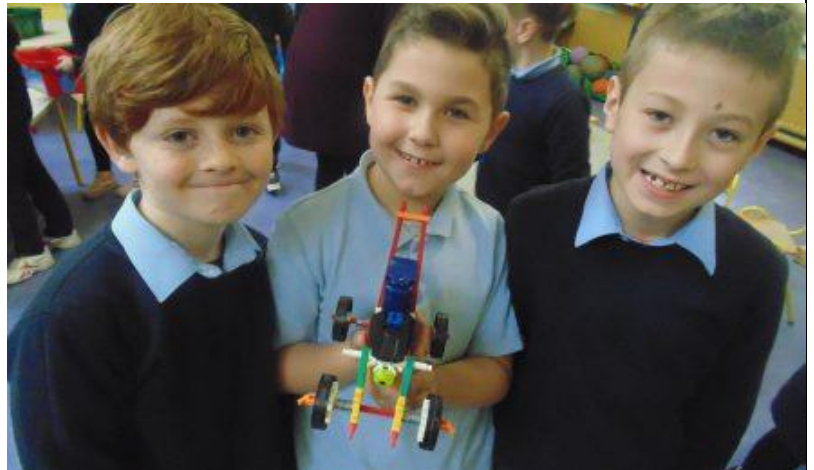
A Message From Our School Principal!

We are now drawing close to the end of what was a very busy first term in Ballygar 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

National Science Week

All classes were very busy throughout science week this year (November 13-20th).

A huge variety of experiments were undertaken by all of the boys and girls during the week. 3rd/4th class also completed science projects where each child chose and researched an experiment and showed it to their classmates. 5th/6th class also completed a number of experiments and demonstrated them to our junior classes.



On Friday 3rd-6th class pupils participated in a Science themed table quiz. Well done to Jonathan Dowd, Ella Daly, Hayden Naughton, Eoghan Conroy, Dawid Pyclik won the quiz in a tense tie-breaking round.

On Monday the 20th of November, in association with NUIG and Galway Science, all classes participated in a K'nex Workshop. All of the children had great fun being engineers for the day designing and creating many K'nex creations. Our infants created motorized flowers while the children from 1st-6th created motorized cars, windmills and motorbikes.

Everyone had great fun participating in Science Week. We are already looking forward to next year!!!

Carol Service

All classes have been very busy this year preparing for the Christmas season. The children have been working hard learning Christmas carols for our annual Christmas Carol Service which will take place this evening, Wednesday 20th December at 7pm in St. Mary's Church. 5th/6th class have been busy practicing their lines for their Nativity play which will be performed also on the night. All are welcome and we hope to see you all there.



Santa Claus

Santa Claus will visit all the classes in the school on Thursday 21st December. The children can wear their Christmas jumpers or dress in Christmassy colours on this day. All of the children are looking forward to seeing him. Keep an eye out on our school website and twitter account for pictures.



Computer Coding

This year our 3rd-6th class pupils took part in the 'Hour of Code' challenge during Computer Science Education Week, December 4-10. 'Hour of Code' is aimed at introducing the children to computer science and computer coding. Millions of children worldwide took part. Coding helps nurture problem solving skills, logic and creativity. The pupils worked on iPads on a mine craft coding challenge for 1 hour. They wrote their own code using coding blocks to solve problems in order to get characters Steve or Alex to the next level. They really enjoyed it and are looking forward to doing some more coding in the future.



Christmas Shoebox Appeal

We took part in the annual Christmas shoebox appeal this year. 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 (over 60) which were collected from our school for 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.



Enrolment

Our enrolment evening for September 2018 will take place on Wednesday 17th January at 7pm. Please pass on the message to friends, neighbours, and family members who are looking to enroll their child in our school for next September.



Puppet Show

Our junior and senior infants attended the annual Christmas puppet show in the Mattie McDonagh Centre on Wednesday 6th December. They had so much fun singing and dancing along to their favourite Christmas songs. They all loved Frosty the Snowman. He was the star of the show. Thank you to the Parents and Toddlers group for organising the show. We cannot wait for next year's show.



Christmas Cards

Thank you to all those who supported our Christmas Card initiative this year. We raised €252 which will go towards buying aistear resources to aid the teaching of our aistear programme in our infant room.



Tag Rugby

The children from 3rd-6th were introduced to the game of tag rugby this term. Many thanks to Michael Glennon, Connaught Rugby Development Officer who has been sharing his knowledge and skills with us for the last number of weeks.

Decoration Time

Every year we take great pride in decorating our school for the festive season. This year was no exception. Our fifth and sixth class worked hard painting the wonderful Christmas scenes which can be seen on our windows. They also decorated our beautiful Christmas tree which is on display for all to see



Stay Safe Programme

As part of the SPHE curriculum, all classes will be completing the stay safe programme in January/February. All schools are required by the Department to teach this programme. The aim of the Stay Safe programme is to teach children personal safety skills so that they can look after themselves in situations which could be upsetting or dangerous. Topics covered include Feeling Safe and unsafe, friendship and bullying, touches, secrets and telling, strangers. Parents will receive a letter in January outlining the language that will be used in the lessons. Parents can also familiarize themselves with the contents of this programme on www.staysafe.ie/teachers/resources.htm. Should you have any further questions or wish to discuss the programme further, you can contact your child's teacher

Parents Association

A group of parents are hoping to set up a parents association (PA) in the school. They have invited a member of the National Parents Council to talk to parents about setting up a PA. This meeting will take place in the school on **11th January at 8pm**. Parent's associations can be a great asset to any school. We would therefore encourage and urge as many parents as possible to attend.

School Website and Twitter!

Don't forget to check out our fantastic website for updates on school events, pictures and news at www.ballygarNS.ie. **School policies can be accessed (including Procedures on Child Protection, Anti-bullying policy, Code of Discipline) on our website.**

Don't forget you can also follow us on twitter for all the latest news at [www.twitter.com/BallygarNS](https://twitter.com/BallygarNS)



School Notices!

Ballygar N.S. will close on 22nd December at 12 noon for the Christmas Holidays and will reopen on Monday 8th January

Important Dates:

Communion May 12th in St. Mary's Church, Ballygar

Confirmation Thursday 12th April at 4pm in Athleague

February Midterm- closed 15th and 16th February

All the staff of Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál 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 2018.**

