

Ballygar National School

Ballygar, Co. Galway,

Tel/Fax: 090 6624951 Email:ballygarns@gmail.com

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Issue: 1

Welcome to Our Newsletter!

Welcome to the first edition of our parents newsletter! We have had a very busy and productive start to the school year with lots of exciting events to look forward to. We hope you enjoy reading all about our first two months. We wish you all a very safe and happy break and look forward to seeing you all again on the 2nd of November!

National Flag

As part of commemorative events organised by the government this year for the centenary celebrations of the 1916 Easter Rising, we had a very special visit from the Defence Forces on Thursday 8th October.

They spoke to the children about the significance of the Irish flag and the 1916 Easter Rising. With the help of Gerard Calligy, Lieutenant Holmes read out the



same Proclamation that Padraig Pearse read on the steps on the GPO in Dublin on Easter Monday 1916. They then presented our school with a copy of the proclamation and a national flag. James Connelly and Aoife Kelly accepted the proclamation and flag on behalf of the whole school community. We all then joined together in song and sang our National Anthem.

National Maths Week

Last week, 12th - 16th October all our pupils participated in a range of activities for National Maths Week. All pupils made a special effort during maths all week. Based on these efforts one pupil from each class was chosen as *Mathlete of the Week*. Well done to Riain Healy, Salman Khan, Eoghan Conroy, Hayden Naughton, Evan Doyle, Cassie Gately, Jonathon Dowd, Éabha McArdle and Sara Mrozek who were our Mathletes of the Week.

On Friday 3rd and 4th class took part in a maths trail around the school grounds. They went 'out and about' in search of 2D shapes in our school surroundings. 5th and 6th class competed in a Maths Table Quiz on Friday.

We also held a 'Guess How Many Sweets Are In The Jar' competition, which proved to be one of the star attractions of Maths Week. We had some wide ranging guesses from the students. Well done to Cathal Bury in Ms Flaherty's class who was the only pupil in the school to guess correctly.



Morning Supervision

It has come to our attention that a number of children are arriving to school very early in the morning. School begins at 9.20am. In the interests of your child's safety, we ask that he/she does not arrive to school before 9.10am as he/she is not supervised until this time. Unfortunately, the school cannot accept responsibility for children who arrive before 9.10am.

School Wardens

Our school traffic wardens are back up and running once again this year. We currently have two 6th class teams. Teams are as follows:

Team A: Rachel McConn, Seamus Langan, Alanna Healy, Ciara Mulrooney, Brian Kelly, and Sara Mrozek.

Team B: James Connelly, Gerard Calligy, Patryk Ligeza, Ola Pyclik, Emilia Mrowiec, Edward Kilheeney and Zuzanna Kubien.

5th class are currently in training and we are hoping to have a 3rd team up and running soon. A special word of thanks to Pat Regan who trains the teams and puts them through their paces and to Mrs. Watson who accompanies the teams each evening.



Dentist

The Dentist will visit the school on Friday 23rd October to examine pupils in 6th class. All children in 6th class have received a consent form. If you would like your child's teeth examined, please ensure the form is returned before 22nd October.



Special Achievements

We would like to express our congratulations to a number of pupils on their fantastic achievements over the past few weeks.

- Congratulations to Seamus Langan, Brian Kelly, Gerard Calligy, John Kelly, Cormac O Malley, James Connelly, Edward Kilheeney, Harry O' Sullivan who won the U-12 Coiste Iomána na nÓg.
- Well done to Edward Kilheeney who was chosen to represent Galway in a Football Skills Competition in Beacon, Mayo on 9th October.
- Congratulations to Millie Holmes who has been selected to play on the Galway U-11 team and to Ciara Mulrooney who has been chosen to be part of U-12 Galway Development Squad.
- Well done to Shauna Carty who came 3rd in the All Ireland Set Dancing competition in the Fleadh Cheoil in Sligo this Summer.

Sports News

Mini 7's

The first round of the Cumann na mBunscol Mini 7's boys hurling competition took place last Thursday 15th October. The boys did extremely well. They beat off stiff competition from Mountbellow, Cappataggle and Moylough and came out on top of their group on the day. This qualifies them for a spot in the finals this Thursday 22nd October. This year's panel consists of Seamus Langan, Brian Kelly, Gerard Calligy, James Connelly, Edward Kilheeney, John Calligy, Cormac O Malley, Harry O Sullivan, Harry Holmes and Anthony Naughton. Well done to all involved. We would like to



wish the boys the very best of luck in final this Thursday.

A special thank you to Mr. Naughton who returned to coach the boys this year and to Ms. Hanley for assisting Mr. Naughton on the day of the competition.

Football and Hurling Coaching

Football

Football coaching is back up and running on Thursdays with Johnny Ryan. All classes from 1st to 6th will be taking part. Children will take part in one session every fortnight. Your child's class teacher will remind your son/daughter when it is their week to partake so that they can wear their tracksuit to school.

Hurling

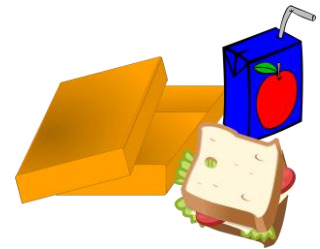
Francis Lyons has also returned this term to share his skills and knowledge of hurling with the children. All children from 1st-6th have the opportunity to partake in hurling coaching sessions. These sessions take place on Fridays and will run for 8 weeks.

We would like to say a special thank you to Johnny and Francis for sharing their knowledge and skills with us.

School Lunches

New Snacks Added

The Carambola lunch company have recently added two extra healthy snacks to your child's packed lunch. If you would like to change these snacks at any time, you can do so by logging on to carambola.ie and entering the password and username you have already been provided with. If you have any problems with the login, you can contact the school office.



Nut Allergy

It has come to our attention that a child in our infant room has a severe allergic reaction to nuts. This allergic reaction (anaphylactic shock) can occur through ingestion of a variety of nut products (including nuts/peanuts/almonds/sesame seeds).

Since this condition can be life threatening, we are asking for your help in minimising the risk to this child by:

- Avoiding giving children peanuts in school lunches
- Avoiding giving peanut butter sandwiches, other spreads containing nuts such as Nutella and snacks/bars containing nuts or labelled "may contain nut traces" in school lunches
- Asking children **not** to share their lunches including lunches provided by our free school lunch programme. We ask that you talk to your child about the importance of not sharing/swapping their lunch with their classmates.

Due to the severity of the problem, it is important that all parents carry out the suggested measures and reduce the risk of allergic reaction to this child.

Healthy Eating Policy

Please remember that we operate a Healthy Eating Policy in our School. This means that your child should have healthy food throughout the week. Each child is provided with a healthy lunch by the school lunch company. If you are sending additional lunch other than the snacks provided by the school, we ask that they are healthy. Some healthy snacks include fruit, vegetables, yoghurts, cheese, raisins, popcorn, crackers etc. Crisps are discouraged as are chocolate bars, sweets and lollipops. Fizzy drinks and energy drinks (eg. lucozade sport) are not allowed in school.

Library Visit

All children from 2nd-6th class visited the library for a story telling session last Thursday 15th October. They met with Author Gerard Siggins who spoke to the children about the process of writing. Gerard Siggins has written a number of children's books including Rugby Spirit, Rugby Warrior and Rugby Rebel. He spoke to the children about his children's books and how he came up with the ideas for his stories.



6 Nations Cup

We had a special visit from Wendy Hickey, Connaughts Women's Rugby Development Officer on Friday 25th September. Wendy brought the 6 nations cup which the Irish ladies rugby team won this year for us all to see.



School Photographer

County photos visited our school in September. All children have now received a sample of photograph taken and the order form. If you wish to purchase your child's picture, please return order form and money to your child's class teacher before Wednesday 21st October.



Communion and Confirmation

Communion

This years First Communion will take place on 14th May 2015 in St. Mary's Church, Ballygar.



Confirmation

Confirmation will take place on Tuesday 12th April in St. Patrick's Church, Athleague at 4 pm.

New Board of Management

A new Board of Management for Ballygar N.S. must be appointed by 1st December 2015. Two parents of children enrolled in the school (one being a mother and the other a father) must be elected by the parents of children enrolled in the school.

The following procedures for the election of a parent will apply

1. Obtain permission to circulate parents names to all parents for the purpose of obtaining nominations
2. Distribution of names of parents who have consented for their details to be circulated in order to seek nominations
3. Check with nominated candidates to see if they are willing to stand for election
4. Hold a secret ballot to appoint parent representatives to the Board of Management.

Step one has been completed. This week parents are asked to nominate one mother and one

father. We ask that you return your nominations on or before Friday 23rd October. Once all nominations are received, a list of the persons in receipt of the highest number of nominations will be drawn up for each panel. A secret ballot shall be held and each parent will have a vote for both the mothers' and fathers' panel.

Welcome to Our Junior Infants!

We would like to welcome our Junior Infants to our school. We hope that they have a very Happy and successful 8 years with us!



School Notices!

Ballygar N.S. will close on 23rd October for the Halloween Midterm and will reopen on Monday 2nd November.

Fancy Dress:

We will be having a fancy dress day this Friday 23rd October.

Overdue Book Rental and Art and Photocopying:

A number of book rental and art and photocopying fees are still outstanding. Parents are asked to send any overdue book rental or art/photocopying fees into their child's class teacher as soon as possible.

We would like to wish all our students a safe and Happy Halloween.

