

Ballygar National School



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A Message From Our School Principal!

Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter. We have had a very busy couple of weeks in Ballygar N.S. I would like to thank all the staff and members of the community for their ongoing support of the school and school activities. Finally, I would like to wish all our pupils and parents a very enjoyable and safe Mid-term Break

Grandparents Day

As part of Catholic Schools Week, we held a very successful Grandparents Day on Friday 2nd February. It was marvellous to welcome the huge amount of Grandparents who spent the afternoon with us. Our 6th class ambassadors were on hand to welcome the grandparents as they arrived. All of the classes put on a special performance for the Grandparents. Ms Hanley's class performed a lovely poem about how special their grandparents are and sang 'You've got a Friend in me.' Mrs Watson's class performed, 'The Green Machine'. This was followed by Ms. McManus' class who recited a poem about grandparents and sang the song 'Happy' " and finally Mrs. O Connor's 5th and 6th class played 'Amazing Grace' on the tin whistle which was followed by a beautiful rendition of 'Caledonia'. The celebrations concluded with a prayer service which was led by 6th class.



A special thank you to some of our parents who served tea, coffee and lovely cakes to the grandparents. All our pupils prepared gifts to show their grandparents how much they mean to them.

Grandparents' Day has become a feature of our school calendar now and we celebrate it every year during Catholic Schools Week. We are already looking forward to next year. For more pictures visit our school website.

Safer Internet Day

On 6th February we took part in Safer Internet Day. All classes took part in lessons aimed at raising awareness of online dangers, and teaching children how to keep safe and to make smart decisions online. Our senior classes also learnt about cyberbullying and the dangers of social media. Recent figures show that a third of children aged 8-12 regularly speak to strangers online. This is an alarming figure. As a result, we would advise parents to:

- ✓ Talk with your children regularly about their Internet use
- ✓ Keep informed (websites such as www.webwise.ie provide information to parents about internet safety and new apps)
- ✓ Monitor your child's online usage



Catholic Schools Week

All classes celebrated Catholic School Week from 29th January to 2nd February. The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year was 'Families of Faith'

During Catholic Schools Week, each day during the week the children participated in a lesson based on this theme, They celebrated love in the family at home, the school family, the parish family and universal family.

Ambulance

On Friday 26th January, we had a special visit from the ambulance services. This was organised by Ms. Hanley as part of the aistear programme. Our infants have been learning all about working in hospitals and making emergency phone calls this month. A special thank you to Michael Bury for bring an ambulance to our school and teaching the children all about his work.



World Book Day- a Date for the Diary

This year we will be celebrating World book day on 2nd March which is aimed at promoting the enjoyment of books and reading. As part of our celebrations here in school we will be dressing

up as our favourite characters from our favourite books. Here are some ideas to get to you thinking.

- Red riding hood- a red cape/sheet or piece of material
- Where's wally- stripy jumper, stripy hat and round glasses
- Princess costume- for various fairytales- Cinderella, sleeping beauty, snow white
- The Witches- Witch costume
- Peter Rabbit- Rabbit Ears
- Alice in Wonderland- dress and white apron
- Demon Dentist (David Walliam)- White coat, hair- in beehive
- Cat in the the hat- a hat made of a card red tissue for bow, tights for tail, white gloves, face paint and black top and bottoms
- Harry Potter- black cloak, wand, scar drawn onto forehead, glasses
- Mr. Bump- Blue Clothes, bandages
- Gangster Granny- 'Granny Style' cardigan/blouse, a black skirt, slippers, talcum powder in hair for grey hair, Rollers in hair, Sack.



WORLD BOOK DAY

Sports News

Soccer Blitz in Secondary School

On 25th January, our 5th and 6th classes took part in a 6 a side soccer tournament organised by Coláiste Mhuire in the Mattie McDonagh Centre. We entered two teams into the competition and competed against a number of local primary schools including Ballyforan, Ballaghlea, Mount Talbot, Fuerty, Windfield, and Four Roads. One of our teams narrowly missed out on a place in the final. A great day was had by all. A special thank you to Mr. Curran and to the transitions years for organising the tournament.



FAI Soccer

Training for the upcoming 5 a side FAI soccer tournament in Shiven rovers commenced last week. Your son/daughter will be notified each week by his/her teacher as to when training is on and will reminded to bring in their gear.

Swimming

All pupils from 1st- 6th class will be going Swimming every Wednesday for 7 weeks commencing Thursday 1st March. The cost is €40 per pupil. This includes the cost of 7 lessons and the bus. Please send in money to your child's teacher as soon as possible. (if you would prefer to pay in installments, contact the school office to arrange this method of payment). Swimming is part of the PE curriculum and we are very lucky to be able to avail of Roscommon swimming pool for these lessons.



A Message From Our Parent's Association

A Parents Association Meeting was held on the 8th February 2018. The following officers were appointed

Chairperson- Demelza Muldoon

Treasurer- Juliana Naughton

Secretary- Deborah Holmes

Vice Chairperson- Regina Bannerton

Assistant Treasurer- Mairead Molloy

Assistant Secretary- Eva Galvin

Any suggestions/ideas welcome- speak to any P.A. member

Volunteers Required:

Volunteers are required for a school yard clean up on Saturday 24th February at 11am. Please bring brushes. Your Help would be greatly appreciated.

Parents Association Committee

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 Department of Education and Skills Procedures on Child Protection) on our website.



Don't forget you can also follow us on twitter for all the latest news at www.twitter.com/BallygarNS.

School Notices!

Ballygar N.S. will be closed on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th of February for the midterm break.

Upcoming School Closures:

- Bank Holiday Monday 19th March
- Easter Holidays. School will close on Friday 23rd at 12 noon for the Easter Holidays and reopen on Monday 9th April.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our second class will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) on 7th March at 11.30am in St. Mary's Church.

