

Ballygar National School



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A Message From Our School Principal!

Welcome to the summer edition of our Newsletter, you can read about the successful summer term that we have had here in Ballygar N.S. As we draw to the end of a very busy school year, I would like to thank the staff, pupils and parents for their support throughout this school year. To each and every one of our sixth class, I would like to wish you all the very best and every success as you move on to Secondary school and I hope you look back on your time here with fond memories! Finally I would like to wish you all a very enjoyable summer break!

Maths and Science Award of Excellence

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a Discover Primary Science and Maths Award of excellence once again this year.



Discover Primary Science (DPS) is the national programme designed to foster interest in science and engineering among children in primary schools.

Participating schools carry out a range of science activities in the classroom and are also encouraged to undertake additional explorative activities and projects in the area of technology, engineering and maths. Throughout the year, our pupils worked hard and carried out various experiments and investigations such as investigating the conditions necessary for seeds to grow, capillary action, lava lamps, inflating/deflating balloons using hot/cold water, magnetism, chromatography, identifying different plants, animals, birds and minibeasts in our school environment and many more. 3rd and 4th class also made oral reports on a range of science experiments that they completed.

We took part in a range of additional activities in the area of technology, engineering and maths including maths trails, a K'nex workshop, Hour of Code, making bridges and hosted a range of activities for maths week. We also regularly used our ipads as part of lessons in class.

Well done to all involved, all of your hard work really paid off. Thank you to Ms. McManus for co-ordinating the award.

To celebrate our success we had a pizza and ice-cream party on Thursday 28th June. Our oldest pupil Shauna Carty and our youngest pupil Sabina Mrozek unveiled our plaque.



Activ Panels

We have invested in 2 new Activ Panel for both our infant and 1st/2nd class room. Activpanels are large tablet like interactive boards that bring learning to life for children. We are fortunate to be one of the very few schools in the locality with such technology and we hope that they will enhance the children's learning experiences in our school.



Junior Wardens

This year we hosted the Junior Warden Competition here in Ballygar on 9th May. Representing our school this year was Michael Naughton, Anthony Naughton, Niamh Langan, Cathal Bury, Shauna Carty, Wiktoria Staniak, Jonathan Dowd and Cassie Gately. They did a terrific job representing our school and were very unfortunate to be pipped to the post by Tuam this year! A special thank you to all the boys and girls



who were involved in the wardens programme this year. 17 pupils in total. There are only 4 schools in Galway still taking part in the scheme. They play an important role in ensuring the safety of their fellow pupils when crossing the road at home time. As a special treat for participating in the programme, the boys and girls were treated to a trip to Jumplanes in Galway where they went ice skating and had fun on the huge indoor trampolines. A special thank you also to Garda Pat Regan and Mrs. Watson for all of their hard work putting all of our wardens through their paces this year

Lunchtime league

29 pupils from 3rd-6th took part in our Gaelic football lunchtime league in May. Tully came out on top led by captain Cathal Bury, Shauna Carty, Piotr Wanzdel, Harry Holmes, Julie Ann Fahy, Adam Naughton and Caoimhe Molloy.

Harry Holmes won the boys top scorer award and Niamh Langan was the Girls top scorer. Anthony Naughton was awarded player of the league while Tiernan Keegan scooped the award for the most improved player. Well done to all the boys and girls that took part.



29 pupils also took part in our lunchtime soccer league which took place in June. Well done to the winning team Piotr Wandzel (Captain), Aoife Kelly, Harry O Sullivan, Evan Doyle, Kacper Krysztorski Alex Doyle and Hazel O Malley who won after a nail biting final which came down to penalties after extra time.

Harry Holmes won the boys top scorer while Niamh Langan and Shauna Carty were the Girls top scorers. Christopher Corcoran received the reward for most improved player and Gerard Healy was awarded player of the tournament.



Cumann na mBunscol- Football and Hurling

Well done to all the boys and girls who took part in both the football and hurling Cumann na mBunscol competition. They represented the school very well and showed how skillful they were in both competitions and were very unfortunate to miss out on a place in the finals. A special thank you to Ms. Hanley who trained both our girls and boys football team and to John Hanley who coached our hurling team.



Football and Hurling Coaching

3rd-6th class pupils have been receiving a number of coaching sessions with Galway footballer Barry McHugh and also Robert Joyce

Liam Gordan also shared his skills and knowledge of hurling with the children from 3rd-6th class. We were fortunate that children from 1st/2nd also had the opportunity to partake in a few hurling coaching sessions also this term.

We would like to say a special thank you to Barry, Robert and Liam for sharing their knowledge and skills with us.

Green Fingers

Window Boxes

A group of children were involved in making the lovely window boxes which you can see on display at the front of the school. A big thank you Ms. Mannion who helped the children make the window boxes. I am sure you will agree they really add to aesthetics of our school.



Vegetable Patch

In association with tidy towns we also planted vegetables in our school vegetable garden this month. We planted carrots, lettuce, turnip, strawberries, and a black current and red current bush. Thank you to all those in tidy towns who helped prepare our vegetable garden. We can't wait to harvest them when we return to school in September.

Awards

This year we once again held an 'Awards Day' to acknowledge the hard work and good behaviour of some of our pupils. Choosing the award winners was extremely tough as there are many boys and girls in each class whose efforts and achievements this year deserve to be acknowledged. Prizes were awarded for 'Pupil of the Year' and 'Special Recognition'.



Awards are as follows:

Junior infant pupil of the year - Maisie Holmes

Senior infants pupil of the year- Cathal Dowd

Miss Hanley's Special Recognition - Ellen Mahony

1st class pupil of the year- Ethan Galvin

2nd Class pupil of the year- Naomi Mozgala

Mrs Watson's Special Recognition - Bartosz Ziach

3rd class pupil of the year- Hazel O Malley

4th Class pupil of the year- Hayden Naughton

Ms. McManus' Special Recognition - Alex Kelly

5th class pupil of the year- Harry O Sullivan

6th Class pupil of the year- Wiktorja Staniak

Mrs. O Connor's Special Recognition -Jonathan Dowd

Overall Pupil of the Year- Niamh Langan

Attendance Award- Hazel O Malley, Olivia Kelly, Elliott Kelly, Diarmuid Bury and Tiernan Keegan all who have not missed a single day all year.

Well done to everyone and we are already looking forward to next year.

School Tours

This year all classes explored thrilling and exciting activities on their school tours.

Ms. Hanley's and Mrs. Watson's class explored the excitement that Jump for Joy had to offer.

Ms. McManus's and Mrs. O' Connor's class had an action packed fun filled day at Bay Sports.



Sports Day

On Tuesday 19th June, we had our Sports Day. Everybody had a brilliant day taking part in lots of different fun events. Photos of the day can be found on our school website.



Communion Class of 2018

This year 16 children received their Holy Communion on 12th May 2018. This was a very special day for the school. A great day was had by all! We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Watson who prepared the children for this special occasion and for Miss King who prepared the beautiful choir! A special thank you to one of our parents Michelle Geraghty for accompanying the children.



Summer Works

As well as investing in educational resources and equipment the Board of Management are committed to continuously improving and upgrading the facilities and school building here at Ballygar N.S. Over the last 3 years all our toilets and bathrooms have been completely refurbished, new flooring fitted throughout the school, one section of our roof upgraded, interior has been painted and a section of fence in tennis court replaced. We are delighted to announce that our application for a grant to upgrade and replace the remaining section of our school roof has been successful. The work will be carried out during the summer holiday.



Teachers For School Year 2018/19

Here is a quick summary of the staffing allocation for school year 2018/19.

Infant teacher- Ms. Helene Hanley

1st/2nd class teacher- Mrs. Siobhan Watson
(Deputy Principal)

3rd/4th Class teacher- Ms. McManus

5th/6th class teacher- Ms. Claire
Flaherty (Principal)

Special Education Teacher- Ms.
Dympna Mannion

Special Education Teacher- Ms. Imelda King



Change to school lunches

Please note there will be a change to school lunches in September. Water will no longer be delivered with your child's lunch every day.

Instead your child will be provided with a reusable drinks bottle in September. We ask that your child would bring in their own drink in this bottle for their lunch everyday. Water filters will be installed into classrooms so that your child will be able to refill his/her bottle should he/she need to do so during the school day.



Class of 2018

The graduation mass for 6th class took place on Wednesday 20th June. All the staff of Ballygar N.S. would like to take this opportunity to wish all the 6th class boys and girls all the best for the future. They will be missed greatly!



We would also like to say goodbye to our friends Dawid, Jakub and Paula who are returning to Poland this summer. We will miss you.

School Notices!

Ballygar N.S. will reopen on Thursday 30th August for the coming school year.

Booklists

All children have received a copy of their booklists for next year. A copy of all booklists will also be available to be downloaded from our school website.

Tips for Parents:

Tips for parents on how you can improve and support your child's learning are available on helpmykidslearn.ie

End of Year Video

Our end of year video featuring a quick look back at all of our fantastic achievements over the 2017/2018 school year will be available on our school YouTube channel (Ballygar N.S). It can also be viewed on our school website.

School website!

Check out our fantastic website for updates on school events, pictures and news at www.ballygarns.ie.. Don't forget to follow us on twitter www.twitter.com/BallygarNS to keep up to date with school events as they happen!!



All the staff of Ballygar N.S. are very proud of all our students for their fantastic success and achievements this year. **We would like to wish all our students a safe and happy summer and we hope for continued success in 2018/19.**

