

Ballygar National School



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A Message From Our School Principal!

Welcome to the Easter 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. I would also like to wish all our pupils and parents a very enjoyable and safe Easter break.

World Book Day

This year our pupils took part in World Book Day on 7th March where we celebrated authors, illustrators, books and reading. As part of the celebrations our pupils had the opportunity to dress up as their favourite characters. We had lots of interesting characters visit our school on the day.

Throughout the day, in each of the classes, the children participated in a number of book related activities including DEAR (Drop everything and read) time where each pupil read a library book for 20 minutes.

After lunch we also took part in shared reading. 5th/6th class pupils were paired with 1st/2nd class pupils and 3rd/4th class were paired with our infants. During the session each child took it in turn to read an extract from their favourite book to their partner. We loved sharing our favourite books. There are a lot of great storytellers in our school!!

The teachers and staff all really enjoyed World Book Day and we are already looking forward to next year. Have a look at our website to see more pictures of our World Book Day celebrations.



Seachtain na Gaeilge



Bhíomar ag ceiliúradh Seachtain na Gaeilge inár scoil ón 1-17 Márta. Bhíomar ag déanamh an-iarracht níos mó Gaeilge a labhairt i ngach rang i rith na coicíse. Ghlac rang a trí go rang a sé páirt i dtráth na gceist as Gaeilge. Comhghairdeas le Evan Doyle, Oliwia Ziach, Hazel O Malley, agus Zofia Wandzel a bhuaigh an tráth na gceist.

Ghlac gach rang páirt i gcéilí sa Mattie McDonagh Centre. Bhí an-spraoi agus an-chraic againn ag damhsa 'Shoe the Donkey' agus an 'Siege of Ennis'. D'fhoghlaim gach rang amhrán nó dán Gaeilge agus chan siad go léir ós comhar páistí na scoile ag an Mattie McDonagh Centre. Bhí disco again ag an deire agus bhaineamar an chraic as

hí comórtas riddle an lae againn freisin. Bhí duais amháin gach lá agus fuair na páistú seo a leanas duais: Aoife Kelly, Pat Corcoran, Alan Kryzstoforski, Naomi Mozgala, Cathal Dowd, Isabelle Mulrooney and Harry O Sullivan.

Gabhaimís buíochas d'Iníon Mhic an Ríogh a d'eagraigh na himeachtaí i rith seachtain na Gaeilge. Bhainimid an-thaiteamh as.

We celebrated Irish Language week in our school from 1-17th March. Everyone made a special effort to speak more Irish in every class. 3rd-6th class took part in a quiz in Irish. Well done to our winning team Evan Doyle, Oliwia Ziach, Hazel O Malley and Zofia Wanzel.

Every class took part in a céilí in the Mattie McDonagh Centre. We had great fun dancing to different Irish dances such as 'Siege of Ennis' and 'Shoe the Donkey'. Every class also learnt an Irish song/poem and performed it at the Centre for the whole school. We also had an Irish disco and had great craic dancing to Irish songs.

We also held a 'Riddle of the Day' competition where all pupils who solved the riddle correctly were put into a draw for a prize. There was a prize for each day. Well done to following children who were our daily winners: Aoife Kelly, Pat Corcoran, Alan Kryzstoforski, Naomi Mozgala, Cathal Dowd, Isabelle Mulrooney and Harry O Sullivan.

A special thank you to Ms. King who organised all of the events for Seachtain na Gaeilge. We really enjoyed them!



Engineers Week

As part of our drive towards being awarded our 5th Maths and Science award of excellence, we participated in a number of activities for Engineers Week which ran from the 2nd - 8th March. We received a curiosity box from the organisers of Enginners Week Ireland. Our curiosity box contained materials for making



catapults. All classes had great fun using the materials to design and test out their own catapults.

We also held a bricks4kidz Lego workshop for all classes in our school on Friday 8th March. Our infants had great fun designing and making cars while our 1st-6th got to design and make windmills. Everyone really enjoyed the workshop and we are already looking forward to Engineers Week next year. Thank you to Ms. McManus for organizing Engineers week.

Active Schools

We have all been very busy working towards our active school flag. This term we have introduced a number of initiatives to keep the pupils of Ballygar N.S active every day!

Active Playground

Our school playground is zoned and this gives the pupils freedom to choose from a variety of activities. Well done to all the 4th -6th class pupils who are an excellent group of playground leaders! They have been very busy planning games, setting up equipment while demonstrating and monitoring the activities. We most certainly have some budding teachers for the future. Well done!



Mad Hatters Run

To mark the end of term two, we will hold a Madder Hatters run this Friday the 12th of April. Children are encouraged to wear festive attire and to make or wear a funny hat. If they do not have anything suitable they can simply have a crazy hair day, wear a headband or just take part in this fun run. Pupils are encouraged to be as creative as possible so put your 'thinking caps on'....pardon the pun!!



Active School Walkway

Our active school walkway will be officially launched this Friday the 12th of April. It encourages pupils to do their 'talking while their walking'. Thanks to Tom and Shane for setting up our new walkway. It is 325 metres around the perimeter of our beautiful school grounds.

A special thank you to Ms. Hanley for organising all of our Activ Schools initiatives.



Sports News

Champions

Our 5th and 6th were crowned champions in a soccer tournament organized by Coláiste Mhuire on January 24th. We bet off stiff competition from 23 teams on the day and competed against a number of local primary schools including Fuerty, Ballyforan, Ballaghlea, Mount Talbot, Creggs, Windfield, Glinsk, Caltra and Four Roads. We competed in a fantastic playoff against



Ballaghelea in the final and were delighted that the victory was ours on the day. A great day was had by all and we would like to especially thank Mr Curran and the transition years for organising such a splendid tournament.

FAI Soccer League

Well done to our boys soccer team who competed in the FAI soccer tournament in Shiven Rovers on 2nd April. The boys put on a great display of skills and were narrowly defeated in penalty shootouts to qualify for a semi-final.



Our girls also competed in the FAI east Galway league in Shiven Rovers on 27th March. The girls also did extremely well on the day. Well done to all involved.

Hurling

Hurling coaching is back up and running on Fridays with Brian Hanley this term. All children from 1st-6th had the opportunity to partake in hurling coaching sessions.

Tag Rugby

Michael Glennon returned this term to share his skills and knowledge of tag rugby with the children from 3rd-6th class.

3rd/4th class travelled to Creggs on Friday 5th March to partake in a tag rugby blitz. There were 25 teams in total taking part in the blitz. A great day was had by all who attended. Pictured are our boys and girls team that took part.



First Penance

Congratulations to our 2nd class pupils who received the sacrament of reconciliation on 14th March. A special thank you to Mrs. Watson for preparing the children for the sacrament.



Confirmation

Congratulations to our 6th class pupils who made their Confirmation on 22nd March in Newbridge church. In preparation for their Confirmation Day 6th class had a fun filled action packed day in Esker on Friday 1st March.



Galway 20/20 Project

Our 4th/5th and 6th class pupils participated in the 'Elephant in the Room' project. This project is part of the Galway 20/20 'Small Towns, Big Ideas Project' run by Ballygar Arts and Theatre group. Our pupils took part in a lantern making workshop in the town hall with artists Tom Meskell and Sheila Flanagan. The project centres around the theme of combating racism and the lanterns symbolize shining a light on racism. The children's lanterns will be displayed at the 'Elephant in the Room Festival' in Ballygar between September 14th-22nd 2019.

Local History Workshops

Martin Curley, Heritage Ireland completed 5 Local history workshops with 5th/6th class in January and February. These workshops involved the children researching the history of their townland. Using historical archives published online, the children researched people who lived in their townland during the plantations, the changes of landownership during the plantations, people living in their townland in the 1900s, historical sites in their townland and the geology of their townlands. The children really enjoyed these workshops and learnt a lot about the history of their local area and each completed a project based on the information they learnt.

Connaught Cup

On Tuesday 2nd April, Michael Glennan, Creggs Rugby club visited our school with the U-14 Connaught Cup. One of 6th class pupils Julie Ann Fahy was part of the winning Creggs U-14 team who beat Connemara in the U-14 girls Connaught cup final in the Sportsground in Galway. It's great that we have a Rugby Connacht Champion in our school.



Incredible Edibles

Junior and Senior Infants have been working very hard to become an incredible edibles class. We have been learning all about food origin and how we can identify Irish products when out shopping. We have learned all about the story of cheese (from food to fork). We have also planted and grown our seven Incredible Edibles potatoes, fruit, vegetables and herbs. We are looking forward to preparing and cooking a delicious meal after Easter.



Swimming

All pupils from 1st- 6th class will be going Swimming every Wednesday for 7 weeks commencing Friday commencing the 3rd May. The cost is €45 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.



Library

All classes have visited the library in Ballygar on numerous occasions this term. The children are really enjoying reading their new books. Thank you to our new librarian, Mary for facilitating the visits.

New Hedging and Trees

New hedging and trees have been planted at the back of our school. A special thank you to members of Ballygar Tidy Town's committee and the local community who helped to plant the hedging and trees. We really appreciate your help.

School Notices!

Ballygar N.S. will close on Friday 12th April at 12 noon for the Easter holidays and will reopen on Monday 29th April.

Child Safeguarding

Please note our Child Safeguarding has been recently reviewed . A copy of our updated policy is available to view on our website.

The children protection Designation Liaison person is Mrs. Claire O Connor

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person is Mrs. Siobhan Watson

Break/yard time

Please note that due to supervision rules, all children present at school must go out to the yard at recreational breaktimes. Please ensure that children who may be a little under the weather but are well enough to be in school have a coat, hat scarf etc.. so that they will be well wrapped up when going outside to get fresh air during breaktimes.

Upcoming important dates

First Communion- Saturday 11th May



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.

You can also follow us on twitter for all the latest news at www.twitter.com/BallygarNS .

