

## **Easter Letter to Parents**

As our second term in this academic year of 2017/18 comes to a close we look back on another successful term. Here is a brief snapshot of some of the events of this term.

Outside teachers/Coaches: Hurling: Giles O'Grady, Football: Tom Joy, Music: Ann Mahony, After School Music: T.P. McNamara

**K.W.D. Workshop:** A KWD Representative spoke to 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> class about recycling. Pupils designed a KWD truck. A truck designed by Sarah Carroll was selected to go forward to the County Competition. Sarah received a Certificate.

**Credit Union Quiz in Causeway:** Five Teams entered the Quiz. Our U-11 team of David, Jake, Siún and Oisín came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and the U-13 team Oisín, Hannah, T.J. and Conor won 1<sup>st</sup> prize and went on to represent Clanmaurice at the Chapter 23 Final. We are very proud of all our Quiz Buffs and delighted with their performances.

**Religion Inspection:** Sr. Noreen, Diocesan Examiner, visited the school and was very complimentary on the Religion being taught, on the pupils knowledge and on the wonderful atmosphere in the school.

**Science Quiz:** Two teams from Sliabh a' Mhadra N.S. entered the Irish Science Teachers Association Quiz in the IT, Tralee on 1<sup>st</sup> February. One of our teams, Oisín, Siún, Alex and Hannah narrowly lost out in a series of Tie-breakers.

**First Confession:** 2<sup>nd</sup> class pupils made their First Confession in Ballyduff Church on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

**Lenrec:** We had a clothes collection on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. We would like to thank everyone who donated bags of old clothes. It was a great success. We had 1,365kg in weight. Lenrec are calling to the school again on 21<sup>st</sup> June for another collection so start clearing out those presses!

**Scór:** Our school entered a music group in Scór na bPáistí. Our group Sean, Siún, MaryKate, Amilee and Caitlyn put on a great performance in Abbeydorney on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

**Pancake Tuesday:** The delicious smell of pancakes wafted through the corridors of Sliabh a' Mhadra on Pancake Tuesday. Mr. O'Connor's Sixth class, as well as Mrs. O'Dwyer's and Ms. Wren's pupils with their pancake makers, churned out pancakes with a variety of toppings for all to enjoy. They were scrumptious!

**Book Fair:** We had a very successful Book Fair in March after being closed for 2 days due to snow. Thanks to all the parents who purchased books. Fostering a love of Reading is a wonderful gift to your child.

**World Book Day:** March 1<sup>st</sup>. Every child got a world book token to the value of €1.50 to spend on books.

**Fire Brigade:** The Ballybunion Fire Brigade came to the school to talk to 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> class about fire safety in the home.

**Heritage In Schools:** Archaeologist Áine Brosnan gave a workshop on Archaeology to pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class. They looked at artifacts and learned about the work of an archaeologist.

**St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Our school participated in the Ballyduff Parade. Míle buíochas to Liam Houlihan and William Quinlan for providing trailers and to Sandra Carey and Ciara Enright for decorating them. Thanks to all those parents who helped out at the parade itself on the day. We could not have managed without you.

**Building and Refurbishment of toilets:** We are very fortunate to have been granted funding by the Department of Education to upgrade the toilets in the old part of the school. This work will continue throughout the Easter Holidays and we hope it will be finished by the end of April.

**New Child Safe Guarding Statement:** As you have been informed already, we are working on a new Child Safeguarding Policy. When it is completed we will publish it on our Website.

**Seactain na Gaeilge:** Seactain na Gaeilge was celebrated in the school with gach duine speaking our native language to the best of their ability. Classes from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> had a Tráth na gCeist on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> with trophies and Certs being awarded to the winners.

## **Up Coming Events**

**Mini Sevens Football (Buachaillí):** Monday April 9<sup>th</sup> in Finuge.

**Mini Sevens (Cailíní):** Monday, April, 16<sup>th</sup> in Ballyduff.

**Confirmation:** Wednesday April 11<sup>th</sup> in Causeway Church.

**Child Protection:** Pupils will have a half day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April to allow staff to engage with the new Child Safeguarding procedures.

**W.O.W. Day:** We hope to run our "Walk on Wednesday" next term.

**Illustrating with Microsoft Paint:** An educational workshop on 'Illustrating with Microsoft Paint' will be delivered by Ian Jackson to classes on the 18<sup>th</sup> April. Ian is the illustrator of a series of educational books for children using the free computer programme Microsoft Paint.

**Mini Movers:** Brendan Mooney of Lets go Primal Fitness is booked for four weeks to come to the school to do fitness with the pupils. Each class will receive 30 minutes of training per week.

**Musician in Residence:** Ian Wilson has been appointed as Musician in Residence at Kerry County Council. His aim is to assist teachers and young people to develop a confidence about creating music. Ian has been booked to come to the school and he will work with 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils.

**National Spring Clean-Up:** As part of our Green School Programme we will participate in the National Spring Clean-Up after Easter.

**Sponsored Walk:** The Parents' Association are running our annual sponsored walk on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April. The sponsorship cards have been given to the pupils so they can sell them over Easter. Please support this fundraiser as the money raised will go towards funding workshops, outside coaches and speakers as well as subsidising buses and purchasing equipment.

**First Holy Communion:** The pupils from 2<sup>nd</sup> class will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 12 noon in Ballyduff Church.

**Barn Dance:** Following on from the very enjoyable event last year, the Parents' Association are organising a Barn Dance again on June 16<sup>th</sup>. More details later but in the meantime please put this date in your diary.

Thanks to all parents for your co-operation during the past term. The school will reopen on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 9:00am. Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh go léir.

Bríd Uí Dhuibhir

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(Príomhoide)