



**Abbeyleix South
National School**

Scoil Náisiúnta Mainistir Laoise Theas

May 2019

Writing the newsletter is something I enjoy doing as it gives me great satisfaction to see all that has been achieved during the past term. The school year is flying by and it's hard to believe that we have the summer term upon us already. It's an action - packed term and a short one too! Here are some dates for your diary: You are welcome to our Annual Sale of Work on Friday 7th June, commencing at 10am in the G.P.Hall.

Ruth

Easter Table Quiz

The Easter Table Quiz took place on Thursday 11th April. It has become an annual event, with lots of fun on the night. Many raffle prizes were kindly donated by parents and friends. Thank you to all who supported us and to our wonderful Parents' Association who organised this most enjoyable evening.

FÍS Film Project

Pupils from 3rd and 4th class have been busy working with one of our talented parents, Richard Reid, on their Film Production "Breaking News". The film is based on the novel "James and the Giant Peach". This is part of the FÍS (Film in School) Project which is sponsored by the Department of Education and Science and the IADT (Institute of Art, Design and Technology in Dun Laoghaire). FÍS was set up to give children the opportunity to discover



aspects of the film-making process. We are very grateful to Richard, who has a wealth of experience in film making, for taking on this project with our pupils. They have been using the Green Screen as part of the filming process. Some pupils are working behind the scenes, others are on camera, others on stage. Everyone has a part to play in the production and Second Class pupils were delighted to be part of the filming at the Sexton's House. The film has been submitted to Laois Education Centre for judging.



Family Movie Night

A Fundraising Family Movie Night was held in the G.P.Hall on Tuesday 19th February. Pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class really enjoyed the movie "Peter Rabbit" as did many parents and a teacher or two! We are grateful to our Parents' Association for organising this treat and for always working so hard to raise money for school resources.

Clean Up Laois Week

Mrs. Wallace and members of the Green School Committee met with Mary White and John Joe Fennelly during Clean Up Laois Week (8th—12th April) which is run in conjunction with An Taisce's Spring Clean. We planted two varieties of flowers in various containers on the Main Street and also in containers on Market Square. Have a look at our school blog for lots of photos of our helpful and busy children.



Epilepsy Ireland Awareness Day

Epilepsy Ireland hosted its first ever Epilepsy Awareness Day on Tuesday 26th March. Thank you to all our pupils and staff who supported the day by wearing an item of clothing that was purple and by giving a donation. We are delighted to have raised €138.00 for Epilepsy



Talent un-Laois-ed

Congratulations to Mrs. Kerr's 3rd and 4th Class pupils, Group name "Edge" - Poppy Walshe, Katie Cleary, Tara-Ann Tuite, Aoife Neavyn, Orlaith Neavyn, Sophie Cahill, Zoe Patterson and Rachel Igoe who performed wonderfully in Scoil Mhuire's Talent Show on Thursday 21st March. The judges had a tough job in choosing winners for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. They commended the girls on their wonderful performance and we were very proud of them as they represented the school so well.

Abbeyleix Women's Development Group Easter Chick Fundraiser

A sincere thank you to the amazing ladies in Abbeyleix Women's Development Group. With their knitting skills and dedication of their time they raised the phenomenal amount of €2,250 through their Easter Chick Fundraiser for our school. We are so grateful for this unbelievable gift. Also thank you to all the businesses and sponsors who supported these outstanding ladies in this fundraising event. Imagine that some of these fabulous knitted chicks and bunnies travelled to the UK, Russia and Australia. Each little character held a chocolate egg nestled inside. The knitters were very mindful of the 4 R's, ...Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. (See our school blog for lots of photos of the ladies, the chicks and bunnies and thank you cards from our pupils).



Sale for School Resources

First and Second Class pupils held a “Flapjacks and Muffin Sale” on Friday 15th March. They were delighted with the money raised which helped to buy Art resources. They learned how to make these energy-giving biscuits in cookery class and Mrs. Wallace was very impressed by their entrepreneurial skills on the day. The pupils were amazing, made posters to promote the sale, manned the stalls and ensured that everything was sold on the day!

SEA– SEIS Art Competition

Mrs. Wallace’s 1st and 2nd Class entered the www.sea-seis/sea-seis-art-18/ drawing competition. The pupils were asked to create an interesting seismometer which measures earthquakes on the sea floor. All the pupils were successful and their prize was to have their drawings printed in the SEA-SEIS 2019-2020 calendar. They also each received a copy of the calendar. Visit our Facebook page where you can check out the link for the full list of successful entries from Ireland and Italy.

Junior Entrepreneur Programme

This year we took part in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. We ran a school café on 1st March 2019. We came up with Business ideas in October and went to the Dragons, which were Mrs. Wallace and Ms. Whiteford. They liked the café out of book bags, rain panchos, fitness DVD and written books. So we did the café. We all had different jobs at the café. I was a server. I had to serve food to the customers. Two people told me this was the best day ever. I found it stressful at first but then it wasn’t that hard in the end. I had fun and I was exhausted. I would recommend it to anyone.

By Szymon Trela

Work Experience

Úna Rafter also spent time with us on work Experience in February and March and we loved having her return to us also.

School Café

As part of the Junior Entrepreneur (www.jep.ie) Programme, a programme that allows Primary School pupils the opportunity to experience practical, real-life business learning as part of their formative education, our 5th and 6th Class pupils opened a School Café on Friday 1st March where they served an option of vegetable soup and brown bread or pasta, followed by a chocolate brownie treat. It was a great success. The excitement of a school café was tremendous. Well done to Mrs. Costelloe and her pupils for this wonderful initiative.



Scoilnet Primary Star Site

Our school website has been chosen as a Scoilnet Primary Star Site. We are indebted to Cliona O’Connell who is responsible for our website and Facebook page. Without Cliona we would not have achieved this award. Thank you to pupils, parents and teachers for contributing to our Facebook and blog. Class teachers make the posts to the school blog to give parents, prospective parents and friends an insight into the daily life of the school and into their children’s class activities.

Field Placement

We were delighted to have Nicole Moynan with us for her Field Placement as part of her four year degree course. She worked with the Infants and 1st and 2nd classes. It is always fantastic to welcome past pupils back amongst us.

School Placement

We were delighted to welcome Hannah Ward back on School Placement, where she spent time teaching with Mrs. Costelloe and her pupils in 5th and 6th Class.

World Book Day

Pupils in 1st and 2nd class enjoyed World Book Day where they brought in their favourite book and told their class a little about it.



3rd and 4th Class enjoy our Outdoor Classroom on World Book Day. Its lovely to have the weather to make use of the outdoor classroom.



Stained Glass Windows

5th and 6th class visited St Michael and All Angels ' Church where Canon Harvey told them a little about the stained glass that adorns this beautiful building.



The company that made this window have placed their emblem in the corner of the window.

An Tur Gloin—The Tower of Glass (an Irish Studio).



Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 14th May - Friday 17th May Active School week

Thursday 30th May Ascension Day Service in St. Michael and All Angels' Church at 9.30 a.m. All welcome.

Friday 7th June Annual Sale of Work.

Sunday 9th June Family Fun Day

Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th June

Funky Kids Show.

Thursday 13th June

Introductory Morning for our new Junior Infants

Friday 14th June. Children's Festival Service in St. Peter's Church of Ireland, Mountrath

Friday 21st June

End of Year Service at 9.30 a.m. in St. Michael and All Angels' Church

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