

St. Kevin's G.N.S.

Summer Newsletter 2019



Sponsored Walk

Our sponsored walk took place on the 28th of May 2019 and the theme was 'Bad Hair Day!'. All students walked from the schools to Tymon Park. A huge thank you to the Parents' Association for all the hard work in organising a fantastic event and thank you to the Parents' Association for organising the event and for providing the classes with a lovely treat of ice-cream after the walk. Many thanks for all the support.

Maths Eyes

In June, we held a 'Maths Eyes' competition as part of our School Self Evaluation plan to promote Maths and problem-solving in the school.

The 'Maths Eyes' initiative, aims to change the view of Mathematics as being something everyone does in school. With 'Maths Eyes', children can see the Mathematics they do every day. It builds confidence in Maths and encourages children to use the real world as a starting point for Maths.

The schoolwide competition involved taking a photo of Maths in the real world. The photo may have included a caption or a question.

There were great prizes and a prize-giving for the winning entries from each class level and an overall class prize to win the 'Golden Calculator'! Well done to all the girls that entered!

Student Council

Well done to all the girls who took part in the student council during this school year. Student Council is a great way for students to become involved in affairs of the school and has really benefited the school this year, representing their classes. Thank you to Ms. McDonnell and Ms. Kenny who volunteered their time in facilitating the Student Council at lunchtimes.

VEX Robotics

We were very fortunate this year to have been given a VEX robot, sponsored by Dell Ireland. Vex the robot was built and programmed by a group of girls from Fifth Class during the year. It can now roll a dice and hang from a chair. They grow up so fast! The VEX Robotics team competed with the team in St. Kevin's B.N.S., in a nail-biting robot derby with a debatable winner! The girls are looking forward to competing in the VEX Robotics Primary Competitions in the next school year so watch this space!

Active Week

Active Week took place in St. Kevin's G.N.S. between the 27th and 31st May 2019 to promote being active at home and at school for our pupils. Students in St. Kevin's were permitted to wear their tracksuits all week and took part in lots of fun activities and games. Here are examples of some of the activities that took place during the week

Classes walked/ran around the school yard at different times during the school day. We set a daily target distance and by the end of the week we had walked the distance to reach Brussels. School target was 1,000 km. We put a map in the hall to plot our progress and measured our laps each day. Whole school dancing was also popular daily event in the yard at 12:30.

The Active School Committee provided extra play equipment for use during yard time. Every class decided to do the 10@10 activities from Operation Transformation each day. Physical Homework was set each day instead of some other item.

School Improvement

Numeracy

We have just completed Year One of our chosen School Self Evaluation area in Numeracy. Our area for improvement chosen is 'Improving Problem-Solving Skills in Mathematics Through the Use of Digital Technologies in Teaching and Learning'.

Stage Four of the School Self Evaluation process (Write and Share Report and Improvement Plan) is now complete and the next stage of the S.S.E. process is Stage Five (Put Improvement Plan into Action) formally commenced after the Easter holidays.

Throughout the year, our pupils have participated in a variety of Mathematics-related activities to specifically improve problem-solving abilities. These activities have included using Beebots, Izak9 Cubes, coding and using specific problem-solving strategies across the school.

Since Easter, all students explored Maths in the Environment through using their 'Maths Eyes' in and outside of the classroom. Every class took part in Maths' Trails and activities to explore the importance to seeing the value of Maths outside of the classroom and in everyday life were organised and enjoyed by all classes. There was also a Maths Eyes photo competition, with fantastic entries from Second to Sixth Class.

We are looking forward to continuing with our School Self Evaluation in Numeracy in September. Thank you to the students, parents and staff for their support in this process this year.

Well-Being in St Kevin's G.N.S.

We are currently working on our policy on well-being as part of our school improvement plan. We have surveyed pupils and used the evidence gathered to help us identify our strengths and to help us to develop our improvement plan. We have used the Weaving Well-Being Programme in classes from Third to Sixth. It is an Irish designed positive mental health programme which aims to enhance well-being in pupils within the framework of the S.P.H.E. curriculum. Yoga and mindful meditations have also been introduced.

Writing Genres

The focus of the school's Self Evaluation and School Improvement Plan is to sustain and build on the high levels of teaching and learning in the school. The staff in fulfilling the recommendation in the Whole School Evaluation report, prioritised Writing Genres as the first target in the School Improvement Plan. Teaching and Learning were the areas selected.

Our theme was Teacher's Practice and we selected teaching approaches. Our evaluation criteria were learning outcomes in three writing genres (Procedural, Explanation and Persuasive). These expected outcomes were achieved during lessons.

Using the writing genres framework all pupils were involved in learning activities to revise, discover, learn and experiment with three writing genres procedural, explanatory and persuasive. Each teacher used the Handbook on Writing Genres or availed of the writing genres booklet on PDST site. Reading material connected to each genre was used in the classroom. Classes focused on one writing genre per term. The first seven weeks of Term One was spent recalling the genres worked on in 2017-2018 which were Recount, Report and Narrative.

There was a progression in pupils' learning as they moved from class level to class level. Curriculum appropriate teaching and learning methodologies with a focus on the Seven-Step Approach were incorporated into the lesson structure. These steps include familiarisation with the genre, analysing the framework for each genre, modelled writing, shared writing, guided writing, independent writing and presentation to an audience. Each class teacher from Junior Infants to Sixth class tracked three children three times during the year using the developmental indicators for the different classes and took into consideration the framework required for the different genres. Samples from each class were filed and progress monitored. Writing samples were displayed on noticeboards. The varying needs and abilities were catered for in the course of the lessons through the use of differentiation. Teachers enabled pupils to use relevant and necessary resources including ICT to support their learning. Learning outcomes were shared with the pupils regarding outcomes, criteria and feedback. These assessment outcomes were analysed and used to inform subsequent learning experiences for pupils. There was purposeful development achieved in the three writing genres selected for the year 2018-2019 as indicated in the samples displayed on the writing noticeboard and samples in genre folder.

Children's Reading Activities at Tallaght Library

'Summer Stars' is the National Reading Programme running until the end of August. It hopes to encourage children to read over their Summer holidays, enjoy the fun and pleasure of reading and participate in related events and activities in their local library. Available free of charge to all children, they just keep a record of the books they read on their reading card and children get encouragement and recognition for each step along the way. At the end of the programme, all children who participated will receive their own certificate of achievement at a special awards event.

In conjunction with the programme, the staff of 'Tallaght Library' hold story time/craft/chess sessions during the holidays. This chance is not to be missed. Enrol today by phoning Tallaght library at 01-4620073 or search Summer Activities at Tallaght Library.

Healthy Eating Policy

The staff have reviewed and trialled the school's Healthy Eating Policy during the school year. We rely on the co-operation of parents to implement this policy. If any parents have any suggestions, please contact Ms Kenny directly.

Key Messages for Healthy School Lunches.

- Lots of fruit and vegetables.
- Brown is best when it comes to bread, pasta or rice.
- A small treat is permitted on Fridays.
- Fizzy drinks and crisps are not allowed.
- Be aware of the high sugar content of cereal bars and avoid them.
- Milk, water or fruit juice without added sugar are best.
- Nuts are not permitted because of allergens.
- Good hygiene such as washing hands and using tissues are recommended.
- Infants are asked not to bring in food and drinks which they cannot easily open including Muller Corners, Frubes and drink pouches such as Capri Suns.

Food Dudes

We participated in this initiative to encourage children to eat more fresh fruit and vegetables and it proved to be a very worthwhile experience. It is intended to create positive associations with fruit and vegetables among the pupils. The health benefits are emphasised throughout the programme. We are delighted to note the numbers of pupils bringing lots of fruit and vegetables to school have greatly increased. We are grateful to parents for all their support in developing good eating habits. For further information check their website

eTwinning National Quality Label

Miss Forde's Third Class were delighted to receive an eTwinning National Quality Label for their work in their project 'Christmas Cards Exchange 2018'. The project involved exchanging handmade Christmas cards with other classes in different European countries, learning about how children in other countries celebrate Christmas and sharing how Christmas is celebrated in Ireland. The National Quality Label is awarded to schools with exemplary eTwinning projects and indicate that the project has reached a high level of quality in their country. The award ceremony will take place in the coming school year.

Liturgical Choirs

All our sacramental ceremonies were greatly enhanced by our school choir again this year. Teachers and pupils from Fourth to Sixth worked hard during the year to provide the music for the First Holy Communion, Service of Light and Confirmation ceremonies. We are very grateful that our pupils gave up their own time to participate in the First Communion and Service of Light choirs- a very special candlelit ceremony which takes place as part of the Sixth Class preparation for Confirmation.

Thank you to Ms. Collins, Ms. Garvey, Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Dignam for preparing the choir so well for the ceremonies.

Retreat

As part of their preparations for Confirmation, Sixth Class attended a retreat in the Dominican Priory. It was a very meaningful and enriching experience.

Sacramental Classes

Congratulations to all the girls in Second Class who made their First Holy Communion on the 21st May 2019. They were a credit to their families and to their teacher Ms. Garvey. Ms. Garvey, along with other staff members in the school ensured the class were well prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion this year.

Congratulations are also due to Ms. Collin's Sixth Class who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on the 2nd April 2019. Ms. Collins and other staff members worked hard to ensure it was a meaningful experience for all the girls.

Sporting Times at St. Kevin's G.N.S.

We have lots of lovely sporting memories from our final term. Well done to everyone who participated in the various events. Thank you to everyone who helped each of the teams with a special word of thanks to all the parents and families who gave all our teams great support throughout each campaign.

Camogie

We were enormously proud of our first ever school camogie team. They trained and played with great enthusiasm and after a nail –biting semi-final match against Blessed Virgin Mary N.S. Ballymun, they advanced to the finals to play Divine Mercy N.S. Balgaddy in Croke Park. It was a wonderful experience for the fledgling team. We got the use the dressing-rooms and warm–up area before emerging from the tunnel and onto the pitch. It was a very tight game and in the end a point from a free proved to be the only score of the game. Our girls were disappointed but were very gracious in defeat.

We are very grateful to our local club for all their help and support this year and we have been very fortunate to have had Eamonn Gillen from St Kevin’s Killian’s Gaelic Club working with our camogie team. He had a very positive attitude and instilled great belief in the girls. The club have decided to set up an under thirteen camogie team. Training takes place on Wednesdays from 4-5pm.

Soccer

We are extremely lucky to have two local coaches who are willing to give up their time to train our soccer teams. We are very grateful to Paul Murray and Damien Power who have trained our girls from early January and the success of our soccer teams is due to their efforts and expertise. The girls gave up their time after school to train in all sorts of weather conditions and it was a pleasure to work with them throughout the last number of months. Many thanks are also due to the local club K.A.F.C. as they made their facilities available to us on numerous occasions.

Five A Side Blitz

We entered two teams in this annual competition and both teams performed really well. Competition was fierce but our senior team emerged as regional winners from more than twenty teams present in the stadium in Irishtown. They went on to compete in the Dublin finals in Abbotstown where they advanced as far as the semi-finals. They lost that game one nil to the eventual winners. We were extremely proud of all our players who conducted themselves so well on and off the pitch.

Eleven A Side League

For the first time in our school’s history, we participated in an Eleven-a-Side Soccer League. We opened our campaign with a two all draw with St. Bernadette’s S.N.S but from that point on, we won all our matches in style including our semi-final against stiff competition from the Dalkey School Project. We faced a very good team from Donabate Portrane E.T.S in the final on Wednesday 19th June. Shamrock Rovers offered their training grounds as a venue for the final. Excitement was building in the dressing rooms for both teams before the match as the referee Tom Shannon addressed both teams and explained the rules carefully. He encouraged the girls throughout the game. We took the lead with a fine goal from Caoimhe McGuire and held it with two lovely goals from Lauryn McCabe. Shane from Rovers commended both teams on their skilful game and introduced former Ireland player Keith Fahey who presented the girls with their medals. Captain Aoife Kavanagh made a great speech just before she raised the cup! Well done to everyone from Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Class who participated.

Basketball

Congratulations to Ms. Collin's Sixth Class basketball girls who combined with the boys to participate in the annual Tallaght Schools' Basketball tournament in the National Basketball Arena on the 19th of June 2019. It was a fantastic event and a big thank you to the Gardaí in Tallaght Garda Station for organising.

Sports' Day

Our annual Sports' Day took place on the longest day of the year. We were very fortunate with the lovely weather. Each class worked their way through eleven different activities. A lot of work by all the staff went into the preparations. Ms McCarthy's class allowed their classroom to be transformed into a yoga studio on the day. Special thanks to volunteers Mark and Anne for their time and effort on the day. Mark Sheridan ran a karate session for all classes and Anne put the girls through their hip-hop paces.

School Tours

Junior Infants and Senior Infants

The two infant classes had a great day exploring the aquarium in 'Bray Sealife'. They learned a lot about marine life. Afterwards they had great fun letting off energy in Zoom Adventure Play.

Third Class Visit Dublinia

On Thursday the 29th May, the Third Classes visited 'Dublinia: Dublin's Viking Museum'. The classes received a great tour of the museum and learned lots about Viking Dublin, the discovery of Wood Quay in the 1970s and what living conditions were like in Dublin city during the time of the Vikings. Needless to say, the gruesome history turned some of the pupils off living in Viking Dublin, but it was really interesting all the same!

First Class and Second Class

The girls from First and Second Class travelled to 'The Pine Forest Art Centre' where they began their day with a nice guided mountain walk. The walk was followed by art and craft activities in the centre.

Third Class and Fourth Class

Third and Fourth Classes travelled to 'Explorium: the National Sport and Science Centre' on Monday the 17th May 2019. It proved to be a really interesting experience with just the right mixture of fun and education.

Fifth Class and Sixth Class

The Fifth and Sixth Class school tour to 'Bay Sports' was a great success. The girls travelled to Hudson Bay in Athlone, where they took part in many exciting outdoor and adventure activities. The girls particularly enjoyed the inflatable water park, kayaking and the stop at Applegreen on the way home!

The National Art Gallery

Fifth Class also had the opportunity to attend the National Art Gallery for a guided tour of some of its most famous pieces of art. The tour was very interesting and informative and they got to stop off at Merrion Square for lunch. They ended the tour with a trip to the playground.

School Around the Corner

The Echo newspaper visited our school for its regular feature *The School Around the Corner* in its edition of June 13th. Our school's ethos of kindness was mentioned in the article with accompanied the pictures. Aspects of our school life were highlighted in the many photographs spread across two pages. Check out pages 48 and 49 for pictures of our pupils coding, participating in choir, reading in the library, having fun in the Aistear Room and working through their comprehension strategies. There are also lovely group photographs of our camogie team, Active School Committee, School Council and the Junior and Senior Infants rehearsing for their school play.

Sixth Class Graduation

We bade a fond farewell to our wonderful Sixth Class students on Tuesday 25th June. They gathered together in the library for a special prayer service in the morning. At 11pm they were joined by their families in the hall for a celebration of the primary school days. We wish the girls every happiness and success in the future.

Junior and Senior Infants' Summer Show

The two classes have been rehearsing their songs, poems and speeches for several weeks. The rest of the school enjoyed a sneak preview on Monday but on Wednesday it's the turn of their families to watch this wonderful show. Well done to all the girls and to their two teachers Mrs O'Connor and Ms McCarthy. They were aided and abetted by S.N.A.s Patricia, Bernie and Pauline and L.S.T. Mrs Doherty.

School Musical

Auditions for our next school musical will begin in September. Scripts for auditions will be distributed to all classes from Fourth to Sixth.

School Calendar

The school calendar for 2019/2020 is available to view on the school website.

School Website and Twitter

Keep up to date with school news, events and more through our school website www.stkevinsgns.com and our school Twitter page www.twitter.com/stkevinsgns