

St. Kevin's G.N.S.

Spring Newsletter

March 2023



Sacramental Classes

Work is well underway in our second and sixth classes to prepare for their sacramental celebrations this year. 2nd Class received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday 14th February. It was a beautiful ceremony and we were very proud of our pupils. They will receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist on Saturday 29th April.

Meanwhile the girls in 6th Class are working steadily on their Confirmation Journals. They are also preparing by attending Mass in St Kevin's Church every second Wednesday. The girls will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday June 13th at 2pm.

We wish both classes the very best of luck in their preparations and we are grateful to their teachers and families for all their hard work and support. Well done to Ms. Byrne, Ms. Stone and Ms. Cullen and to all their pupils.

Choir

Ms. Garvey and Ms. Collins are preparing our choir for the First Communion and Confirmation ceremonies. The repertoire is really beautiful and will greatly enhance both ceremonies.

The Laudate choir performance took place in the Church of the Holy Spirit in Greenhills on 2nd February. Thank you to all the children who attended and represented our school so well.

We are very pleased to have our whole school singing up and running again. Every Friday afternoon all classes gather together in the hall to go through our repertoire. It is a most enjoyable whole school well-being activity.

Stepping Stones

The Stepping Stones team, sponsored by Amazon, returned to our school on 27th January to begin planting native Irish tree species for our school forest. Some of our pupils got to plant trees. The group are all volunteers and were assisted on the day by two of our parents, Linda Saulite and Sorcha O'Connor along with our caretaker Anthony Marchetti. There were a total of 425 trees planted on the day. Local councillors Mick Duff and Charlie O'Connor visited on the day to check out all the great work. Thank you very much to all our volunteers.



Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week took place from 6th – 12th February. This year the theme was 'Let's Connect'. We had a whole school well-being walk to Tymon Park. We all wore odd socks to show that it is ok to be different! Each child and adult in the school decorated a cardboard daisy with positive thoughts. We made a whole school daisy chain in the yard. We also had a 'Let's Connect' poster competition for all classes. The Amber Flag committee helped to organise these events. As part of our school's Well-Being and Amber Flag initiative we have regular 'Positive Podcasts' by the pupils. They collect good news stories from around the school and relate them over the intercom.



Wood Turning

Wood turner John Dornan visited our school on 15th February to give a demonstration of this old skill. John brought along old wooden toys which he made. The girls thoroughly enjoyed this experience.



February Cake Sale

This year's cake sale raised a massive €1410. Thank you to Joanne McKeown Nolan, Daiga Krivenoka and Linda Saulite for all their help in running the event.

Funds raised have been used to order 4 new iPads and a set of indoor goalposts.

Diocesan Inspectors

We had a visit from the diocesan advisors in February. The feedback from the advisors was extremely positive as they were very pleased with the work they observed in the classes they visited.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge took place from March 1st – 15th. Our daily 'seanfocal' was read out over the intercom and we had a seanfocal poster competition. Our daily positive podcasts were done 'as Gaeilge' during this time. Some classes took to the yard to practise their Irish dancing. Maith sibh go léir!



S.T.E.A.M.

We were delighted to welcome representatives from the STEAM Academy to our school on Thursday 2nd March to do a demonstration to pupils from first to sixth classes. The pupils were amazed by what they saw and were thoroughly engaged throughout the presentation. The academy are hoping to offer after-school classes in STEAM in the summer term – more details to follow.

Food Dudes

We had our Food Dude Week during the week beginning March 20th. Everyone got to sample blueberries, cucumber, carrots, courgettes, bananas, oranges and apples. There were great video links to support the programme. The Food Dude Programme aligns perfectly with our school's *Healthy Eating Policy*. We encourage all pupils to eat plenty of fruit and vegetables and where possible to avoid processed food. We ask that parents support our *Healthy Eating Policy* by limiting treats to Fridays.

Artwork inspired by the Food Dudes will be on our website shortly.

School Sports

Soccer

Our soccer team has played a number of cup and league games this term and are so far undefeated. We are very grateful to our local club Kilnamanagh A.F.C. and to Damien Power for all the help and support with all our fixtures. A lot of work is undertaken by Ms. Norton and Ms. Connell to organise these matches and their efforts have been greatly impacted by adverse weather conditions which has really added to their workload. We are also very grateful for the support given to the team by the players' families.



Rugby Blitz

Rob, our coach from Leinster Rugby, invited our school to attend a tag rugby blitz in Clontarf RFC on the 7th March to celebrate International Women's Day. The sixth class team were lucky enough to have availed of free transport to and from the venue provided by the Community Garda Bus.

G.A.A. Coaching Sessions

Paddy Baker has been taking the senior classes for coaching sessions this term. We are delighted to be able to collaborate with St Kevin's Killian's to offer G.A.A. activities to all classes over the school year.

Cumann na mBunscol Camogie Competition

Paddy is also helping us to organise a school camogie team. We will participate in the Cumann na mBunscol camogie competition after Easter. Matches are scheduled for Wednesday afternoons in April and May. More details to follow in the new term.

Debates

After a number of great rounds, our school team lost their quarter final fixture after a really challenging debate. The motion was *'The Voting Age Should be Lowered to 16 in ROI'*. We are very proud of our girls and we hope they use the skills they have learned as they go through life. It really puts our persuasive genre into action and it was wonderful to have other classes watching these debates via zoom.

Mobile Library

We have regular visits from the Mobile Library service. The junior classes are currently making use of this excellent service. We are very lucky to be able to avail of this service.

Castletymon Library Quiz

Ms. Cullen brought a fifth and sixth class team to represent the school at the local primary school quiz. The girls in sixth class came in third place and it was a very enjoyable experience for everyone who participated.

Credit Union Quiz

Lots of our fifth and sixth class pupils participated in this annual quiz. One of our teams came second and all who attended said they really enjoyed the quiz and the goody bags provided by the Credit Union.

S.P.H.E.

The Stay Safe Programme has been rolled out and classes are now working from the Weaving Well-Being and Mindful Matters programmes. Accord visited our fifth and sixth classes to support our RSE programme. Garda Shane returned to the school to talk to classes from fourth to sixth about the importance of internet safety. He also spoke about the dangers of cyberbullying and how to stay safe online.

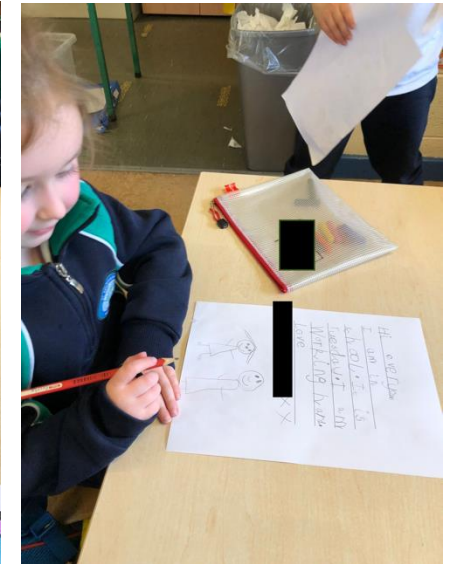
Well-Being Walks

2nd and 3rd Class have continued their well-being walks on Wednesdays to Tymon Park when the weather permits. The classes have enjoyed watching the seasonal changes and have been learning about local flora and fauna.



Aistear

The infant classes have been working on the theme of the Post Office in Aistear. Junior Infants have all written letters to their families and posted them on Wednesday 29th March. The Airport and the Hairdresser are the next two themes the infant classes will be exploring in Aistear in the summer term.



T.C.S. Invitation

The pupils from 5th Class have been invited to attend a performance of the T.C.S. show *T.C.S. Factor* on Friday 31st March. It represents a return to a tradition of local fifth classes attending these great shows.

Active Schools Week

Active Schools Week will take place on the 24th – 28th of April. Planning is underway to provide the girls with a variety of exciting and entertaining activities aimed at increasing physical fitness and participation. Details to follow.

St. Kevin's Got Talent

We are holding a talent show on May 25th. First of all, there will be heats in each class from first to sixth and one finalist act will be chosen to represent each class. 5th Class pupils will be on the organising committee.

Curricular

Currently the staff are reviewing our Whole School Plan for English to take account of the new Primary Literacy Curriculum. Feedback will be sought from parents and guardians in a literacy survey which we will send out next term.

Standardised Tests

As usual, most of our standardised tests take place in May. It is important that pupils make every effort to be in school during the testing schedule. Senior Infants have already started their testing schedule with the MIST which is a literacy test. Standardised test results will be communicated to home via school reports.

Sad News

We were all very sad to hear of the passing of Betty Foley who was a great friend to all of the staff at St. Kevin's G.N.S. She was an educational psychologist who carried out many educational assessments for our pupils. We always appreciated how she highlighted our pupils' strengths. She was greatly respected and admired by all who knew her. Ní bheidh a léithéid arís ann.

And Finally...

We would like to wish all our families a Happy Easter and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school for our last school term of the year on Monday 17th April.

