

# St. Kevin's G.N.S. Spring Newsletter March 2024



## Credit Union Quiz

Girls from 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class participated in the Credit Union Quiz on 28<sup>th</sup> January. This was held in the boys' school. There were teams from local schools in the area competing. There were two competition categories, junior and senior. The girls answered a variety of questions from many different areas like geography, sports, history and science. The girls worked really hard and we are so proud of the way they represented their school and their class. It was a fantastic evening for the girls and the spectators who came to watch. Well done to all who participated!

## Laudate

Pupils from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Class proudly took part in the Laudate festival on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January. They sang a selection of songs along with several other schools. It was attended by very proud family members and the girls sang beautifully. Well done to all involved!

## Sixth Class Outing

6<sup>th</sup> Class had a great day out in town at the Museum of Archaeology on 31<sup>st</sup> January. The girls had a guided tour of the Viking Exhibition and learned about the work of an archaeologist, what artefacts can tell us about the past, and how science contributes to the dating of artefacts. They saw a Viking skeleton and sword, watched an educational movie, and took part in some activities. After all that hard work they had a quick lunch in St Stephen's Green Park and spent some time in the playground.

## Cake Sale

Our annual Valentine's Day cake sale took place on 13<sup>th</sup> February. As always, we were blown away by the amazing baked goods that were made and brought in for sale by the talented Kilnarnagh baking community! Thanks to all the funds raised, we were able to purchase much needed maths equipment and materials to tie in with the new Maths Curriculum which is being rolled out this year. Well done to the cupcake competition winners below!



## Valentine's Day Draw

This year we held a Valentine's Day Draw. There were prizes galore so well done to all our winners! Check the website for the results.

## Friendship Week

6<sup>th</sup> Class took the reins and showed off their organisational skills by promoting our school's Friendship Week 19<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> March. They made posters to decorate the school and decorated a noticeboard in the hall. They also sold Amnesty International friendship bracelets for €2 which proved to be a hit, selling out and needing a re-stock thanks to their excellent selling skills! All the money raised will be donated to Amnesty International to support the amazing work they do around the world supporting human rights.

## World Book Day

World Book Day took place on 7<sup>th</sup> March this year and we were delighted to partake in this event. There were a number of fun activities arranged in the classrooms and around the school and many children dressed up as their favourite characters to mark this occasion. We had a whole school assembly to wrap up the day and it was a very memorable and successful celebration.



## Family Concert

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March we were delighted to hold a musical extravaganza for our families to attend. The classes wowed their audience with a selection of songs, poems and dances. The atmosphere was electric, and the girls were incredibly proud of their performances. Thanks to all who attended and also contributed to our raffle.

## Student Council

Our Student Council members have met on several occasions over the past few weeks. They eagerly tasted foods in preparation for the hot lunch scheme and gave their verdicts on the various meals provided.

They also used their student voice to suggest several ways to improve different aspects of our school. A number of these ideas will be put in place over the coming weeks. Keep an eye out on our Twitter page and website for updates as we go!

Well done to the girls so far for their excellent dedication and enthusiasm!



## Confirmation and Communion News

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Class pupils had their First Confession on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. They had done a lot of preparation in advance and were excited to take part in this step towards their First Holy Communion. The girls were excellent on the night. Thanks to Sister Liz, Father Frank and Father Joe for their support.

6<sup>th</sup> Class are busy preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation which will take place Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> of May at 2:00pm. They have been attending mass each week, learning their prayers and responses and developing their faith with Sr Liz and Patrick during class sessions.

## Active Flag

The Active School Committee were busy this month organising the #RunAroundEurope Challenge 2024. This challenge ran from 26<sup>th</sup> February to 22<sup>nd</sup> March. The challenge was a whole school approach in which all classes and staff throughout the school were challenged to build a run a day into their daily routines over the four weeks. As a school we completed laps of our yard and active walkway which saw us reaching the destinations of Berlin, Madrid and Paris! Well done to everyone for showing such enthusiasm with this initiative!



## Soccer

Thank you to Damien Power and staff from our school who have spent their Friday afternoons giving the girls in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class the opportunity to train with Damien in Kilnamanagh AFC. It has been such a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to develop new skills and to have fun with their friends after school. The girls are currently involved in the 11-a-side FAI league. We are always so grateful to our local clubs for all their support and encouragement of our pupils. Watch this space!

## **New Hot Lunch Scheme**

We are delighted to be a part of this new Government scheme to deliver a hot lunch to all primary school children. This scheme will begin on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April and all the details were sent to parents via Aladdin on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

## **Whole School Inspection**

During the week of 29<sup>th</sup> January, we welcomed two inspectors from the Department of Education to undertake an inspection of Special Educational Needs in our school. There was cooperation from staff, pupils and parents to assist in this inspection and overall, we were pleased with the outcome. Well done to all for their continued hard work and support.

## **Curriculum News**

We had our third and fourth visit from a representative from Oide (previously known as PDST) on 7<sup>th</sup> February and 19<sup>th</sup> March. She met again with teachers to advise on the new Primary Language Curriculum and its implementation.

We will have a whole school closure day on 22<sup>nd</sup> May to facilitate staff training for the new Primary Maths Curriculum. Further details for this closure will be on Aladdin after Easter.

## **Exciting News**

Congratulations to Lucy Branagan, who has received a scholarship to St. Columba's College secondary school. We wish her well and thank St. Columba's for giving her this opportunity.

## **And lastly...**

It is with great sadness that we have said farewell to two members of our staff this term.

Bernie Connaughton retired on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Bernie has been with us since the year 2000 and was loved by all the girls

who have been in her care. They made lovely tributes to her which were presented to Bernie on her last day.

Bernie has been an essential part of the school, and we will miss her greatly. We wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

We will be saying our farewell to Máire Kenny on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. We are very happy for Ms. Kenny that she is retiring, but she will be sorely missed.

Ms. Kenny has taught in St. Kevin's since 1983 and decades of girls have benefitted from her expertise and her passion for teaching. Ms. Kenny has been Deputy Principal in St. Kevin's since 2020 and has balanced this with also being the head of Learning Support.

We will be sad to say goodbye, but we wish Máire every happiness in her new direction.

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new Deputy Principal, Marie Linehan, who will start with us after Easter.

We wish all our families a wonderful Easter break and we will welcome all our pupils back to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

