



Easter Newsletter 2017

Christ the Saviour N.S., Ballingarry

Welcome to the Easter edition of our school newsletter. This edition includes the many activities and achievements that our pupils and teachers have been involved in since Christmas. Pupils in 5th and 6th class have become Junior entrepreneurs with their Pet Rockz business. Also, the school is currently working on various initiatives including 'Biodiversity' with the Green Schools programme and our Active school flag with Operation Transformation 10 @10. We hope you enjoy this edition!!

Pet Rockz

In fifth and sixth class we participated in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme [JEP]. We chose our idea by having local business owners come and act as the dragons. When we decided on our idea we had other successful entrepreneurs come in and talk to us including Eddie Houlihan, Helen Casey, Padraic Frawley and Donal McGoey. When we had all our information gathered we set down to work and started making 'Pet Rockz'. On the 30th of March we had our big showcase day where we invited all the children and adults to our classroom to buy our Pet Rockz. It was very successful and we made €1,065.39!!! We plan to use this money to go to the cinema, give to charity and give a gift to each of the classes to thank them for their custom. We really enjoyed the JEP and would recommend it to other schools. Thank you to everyone who supported our business.

By Laura McMahon and Orla Mulqueen



Reading with Senior Infants

ALL OF 6th CLASS AND SOME OF 5th STARTED A SHARED READING PARTNERSHIP WITH SENIOR INFANTS. WHEN WE GO TO THE SENIORS INFANTS CLASSROOM WE GO TO OUR PARTNER. THE SENIORS READ THEIR YELLOW JOLLY READER AND WE TALK ABOUT THE BOOK. THEY THEN PICK A NEW BOOK AND SIT DOWN AND READ A SMALL BIT OF THEIR NEW BOOK. THEN THEY PUT IT IN THEIR BAG FOR HOMEWORK AND 6TH CLASS LEAVE. WE REALLY ENJOY GOING DOWN TO HELP THEM AND THE SENIOR INFANTS ENJOY READING TO THE SIXTH.



Green Schools: Biodiversity Update



As you all know by now, we have been working at achieving our fifth green school flag under the theme 'Biodiversity'. Our application for the flag was sent in before the deadline on the 24th of March. We are eagerly anticipating the news from Green Schools Ireland to see if we have achieved the flag.

In the past few weeks the improvement in weather has allowed some work to take place in the school garden. The children in 2nd and 3rd class have been doing some weeding and digging to prepare our Sensory Garden raised beds for planting this week. We are very lucky to have Tom from D&M Garden Centre in Croagh coming to help us with this work.

Each class is taking ownership of a raised bed in the garden and depending on which sense they receive they will plant various suitable plants and herbs this week. For example in the 'Look' bed we will plant some tulips and sunflowers, in the 'Taste' bed we will plant wild strawberries and chives, in the 'Touch' bed we will plant Lamb's ear and Heuchera, in the 'Listen' bed we will plant sweet corn and bamboo and in the 'Smell' bed we will have lavender and sweet pea.

Tom will be showing the children in various classes how to germinate seeds indoors and then transplant them into the garden at a later date. He will show them how to maintain the garden and harvest crops later before the summer break. The children are excited to continue developing our outdoor classroom.

We also had a wonderful visit from our local biodiversity expert, Geoff Hunt. Geoff focused on birds during his visit. Children from 2nd class to 4th class learned all about various garden birds that regularly visit our bird feeders here at the school. We learned about 'The Finch Family' and 'The Tit Family'. The children learned how to correctly identify birds by the colour, patterns, song and behaviour. It was a wonderful day with Geoff and everyone learned so much. Geoff gave good advice about suitable plants to put in place to encourage more birds to visit again next year when we put out our bird feeders.

Watch this space and we will inform you about any news we receive from Green Schools Ireland in the near future!!!



Fourth Class News

Eimear O' Kelly, Abbie Mulqueen, Rachel Irwin, Lorna Hanley, Tomás Houlihan and Emma O'Shea (Granagh N.S.) won the county final in under 12's drama act in Caherconlish. They are going through to the All-Ireland final which is taking place in Dublin in August! Well done to all!



Eithne Neville West Camogie Team



We would like to congratulate Emily Flynn from 6th Class for making the Eithne Neville camogie team!!!! Well done to Orla Mulqueen from 6th Class and Kate O' Connor from 5th Class for being called up to the trials. All three girls made it through to the 2nd trial, but Emily was the only one to continue to the final trial. Well done girls!!!! We wish Emily and her team the best of luck in their upcoming matches and hope they are getting on well.

Indoor Camogie and Hurling

Congratulations to all the boys and girls who represented the school in the West Limerick Indoor Schools competition recently in Newcastle West Community Centre. On Monday, 13th March the boys played very well and won their first match against the Gaelscoil. Unfortunately, they lost their second match. The girls played on Wednesday March 15th but unfortunately lost to Croagh NS in their first match. The girls played very well and showed great sportsmanship in their defeat. Thanks to Ms O'Loughlin and Ms Hanley for training the teams. Thanks to the GAA club for the use of the handball alley for our training sessions.

Junior and Senior Infants go for a Spring Walk

On Friday the 17th of February, the Junior and Senior Infant classes went on a Spring Walk to Ballingarry Park. First the children walked around the park looking for any plants and animals they might recognise. The children kept a special eye out for birds and frogspawn. The boys and girls picked out daffodils, primroses and lots of interesting trees like a weeping willow and an oak tree. The flowers were starting to bloom and the buds and nests were on the trees. After all the hard work during the nature walk the children had lots of fun playing together in the playground. The pupils were very good at taking turns, sharing and having fun. We hope to visit the park lots more during the year and notice all the seasonal changes.



Pancake Tuesday

The Junior Infants were very busy on Monday the 27th of March. They spent the morning in the staffroom making pancake batter. Ms Tangney took the batter home and cooked it so that the pupils could try out different toppings on their pancakes. The junior infants picked from lemon, sugar and Nutella. We thought the pancakes were delicious!



Grandparents Day 2017

In January, as part of Catholic School Week 2017, we invited grandparents to our school to talk to their grandchild's class about what school was like for them growing up and other things. We were delighted with the response. This is an event that has gone from strength to strength with each passing year. Thanks to Fr Lane for joining us for this special occasion.

We took many photographs to remember the day and they can be all seen on the school website www.ballingarryns.com. We also said special prayers for all those grandparents up in heaven. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and loved every minute of the time spent with the Grandparents.







Operation Transformation 10@10!!! In Christ the Saviour NS

On February 10th at 10am, all the boys and girls got out on the basketball court for 10 minutes exercise as part of this year's Operation Transformation. Thanks to Ms Tangney, Ms Shelton, Ms O'Loughlin and Ms Hanley for guiding the boys and girls to do all the actions. We had great fun exercising!! There are lots of photos and videos of this event on our school website www.ballingarryns.com



Literacy Fun with iPads

Senior Infants have been exploring the app called 'The Farmer's Lunch' over the past number of weeks. First of all, our teacher Ms Hanley used the Apple TV to show us the story on the Interactive Whiteboard. Ms Hanley showed us on the Interactive Whiteboard how we could write our own story. After that, we worked in pairs and shared an iPad and created our own story. We got to pick out the background and put in the pictures we wanted. Then, we put in speech bubbles and wrote what the character was saying. We really enjoyed writing these stories on the iPads.



Religious News



First Penance Ceremony

The children in 2nd class had their First Penance ceremony recently in Ballingarry church. The children presented themselves beautifully on the night and received their First Penance from Fr. Lane. When it came to making their First Confession, they each took great care in ensuring everything went according to plan! Each said “sorry” for the times they didn’t live as Jesus had asked them to and were willing to try very hard again.

The children were very well supported by the older children from 3rd to 6th class who turned out in great numbers for the choir. We know the Communion class really appreciated their support on the night. A big thank you to Mrs Murphy for her hard work and preparation with the children for their special night. Also a sincere word of thanks to Fr. Lane for making the ceremony so special and making the children feel so comfortable. We wish all the children well as they continue preparing for their First Holy Communion Day.

Safe Cross Code

Special thanks to our traffic warden Aedin Hanley who visited our classrooms recently to talk to us about the Safe Cross Code. She reminded us how important it is to wait until she is in the middle of the road before we step out on the road. Aedin's bright smile cheers us up every morning as she helps to keep us safe from the passing traffic. Aedin is pictured below during her visit with Senior Infants.





We'd like to extend a big thank you to Miss Deirdre Shelton for her work with the boys and girls in 1st class this year. Welcome back to Ms Sara Fitzgerald following her recent maternity leave.

Parents' Council News

Happy Easter to all the pupils, parents and staff of Christ the Saviour School from the Parents' Council.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Raffle at the Christmas Concert in December. We raised over €1,400.

Our next Fund raising Event will be our Clothes Drive which will take place on Wednesday April 26th from 2.40pm to 7pm and Thursday morning, April 27th up until 9.30am. Please start collecting all your unwanted clothes, shoes, belts etc. No bric a brac please.

The Parents' Council will be able to finance the cost of the buses for the School Tours again this year thanks to the funds we have raised.

The Parents' Council will also host refreshments for the parents of the new Juniors when they attend for their introduction day in June.

So it's a busy term ahead and all help will be greatly appreciated.

Aisling Frawley, Secretary Parents' Council.



**THE EASTER BUNNY
WOULD LIKE TO WISH
ALL THE BOYS AND GIRLS
A VERY HAPPY EASTER!!!**



We hope you enjoyed the Easter edition of our school newsletter. Our school motto is ‘Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí’ – Praise the young and they will flourish. We certainly have much to celebrate in Christ the Saviour N.S. Don’t forget to check our school website for regular news updates!

The Board of Management and staff would like to wish all families a happy Easter.

School will close on Friday 7th April and will reopen again on Monday 24th April 2017.