

St. Catherine's Senior School

NEWSLETTER

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SUMMER 2010

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and friends,

It is hard to believe that another school year is over and our sixth class have graduated to St. Dominics. We wish them every success as they begin secondary school next September.

Our celebrations of Confirmation and First Holy Communion were special days that will be remembered forever. We thank Sr. Philomena for the great work she has done during the year.

One of the highlights of the school year took place last week when we raised our Green Flag! We welcomed back Ms. Murphy for the occasion and we are thrilled to be the first school in Cabra West to be awarded a Green Flag by An Taisce for recycling and waste management. The Green School Committee worked really hard during the year and deserve great credit for their impressive work. Ms. Ryan, Ms. Garvey, Sarah and Jodie collected the Green Flag at a ceremony in Croke Park and then we had a great celebration for the whole school, with music and dancing as we raised the flag.

The children really enjoyed the day and as you pass the school you can see our flag flying proudly outside. We will continue to work really hard to maintain our Green School status.



May our earth be blessed.

May we realise that our earth is a faithful and beautiful friend to us.

May we have the wisdom to care for our earth as it cares for us.

May we be grateful for the food of the earth.

May we be grateful for all that the earth gives.

We bless the sun, air, wind and rain.

We bless the sky above us and the ground beneath us.

We bless this flag as a symbol of our care for mother earth.

May we be blessed.

May the God of our earth, bless each of us.

In the name of the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Ms. Garvey has developed a very comprehensive website for the school. It contains up-to-the-minute information and news about school events. During the coming year, we will be adding lots more information and samples of the pupils work. Tune in frequently for the latest news!

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We wish you a safe holiday and look forward to seeing everyone on September 1st.



THE SACRAMENTS

Congratulations to second class who received the sacrament of Holy Communion in May. Second class would like to thank everyone involved, especially Sr. Philomena, Ms. O'Reilly, Fr. Greene, Fr. Neylon, Ms. Ryan and Ms. Gaynor. A special word of thanks also to Ms. O'Neill and her choir and Ms. Egan and her recorder group for performing so beautifully and making their day so special.



Sixth class were confirmed on April 29th. We had been preparing for a long time for it. We made Confirmation books, sang songs and went on a retreat with St. Finbar's school in the Dominican Priory in Tallaght. In preparation, we attended the Ceremony of Light and special masses. We also attended the 'You shall be my witness' program on Tuesday nights. On the Confirmation Day, we were confirmed by Monsignor Lloyd. I had a great day knowing that I was a full member of the Catholic Church. We would like to thank Sr. Philomena, Monsignor Lloyd, Fr. Greene, Ms. O'Reilly and Ms. Garvey. Thanks also to Ms. O'Neill and the choir and Ms. Egan and her recorder group.



Gemma O'Flaherty, 6th Class

DCU

In DCU I attended a Forensics workshop. We learned about fingerprinting, CO2 combinations, forged handwriting, blood spatter patterns and we even got to solve a mystery! It was great!



Jodie Gardner, 5th Class

GERMAN LESSONS

5th class students took part in an initiative facilitated by transition year students in St. Dominics College. The girls attended two German lessons which provided them with an opportunity to learn some simple phrases in German through fun games and activities. All the pupils who participated really enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to attend lessons on the secondary school campus.



A VISIT TO ST. DOMINICS

Sixth class and their parents were invited to have a look around St. Dominic's College. Our thanks to Ms. Egan and Mrs. Kelly who organised the visit at the end of May.

'I thought it was a great idea. Now I know my way around the school' Jade McEvoy, 6th Class



'The first room we saw was the Home Economics room. It had seven cooking stations. We saw pictures of how the school looked in the past. There was lots of beautiful art hung up all over the place. I'm really looking forward to September in St. Dominic's College' Ciara Dempsey, 6th Class

GARDENING

6th class were gardening this term. We grew carrots, spinach, potatoes, onions, lettuce and strawberries. We all got to do different things such as dig up the grass, put wire around the vegetables or planting. Myself and Robyn watered the vegetables. It took about 3 to 4 months for the vegetables to grow. We kept them healthy. After they were ripe, we ate some. They tasted nice and fresh. I love gardening!



Nikita Gore, 6th Class

SPORTS AT SCHOOL

Fifth and sixth class were involved in athletics this term with Mary McKenna. They did some long distance running and fitness exercises.



They also learned how to throw a discus, a javelin and a shot put. Some work was completed on hurdling technique and skills.

In April a cross country running competition was held in the Bogies. The children were grouped according to the year in which they were born.

'My class cheered for us and so did 5th class. When I was running, I found it hard to breathe but there were St. Dominic's girls at the rope telling everyone that we were doing great and to keep going. Everyone had support. It was a long race and thanks to Mary who helped us to train. It was hard, but it was fun.'

Danika Losty, 6th Class

SWIMMING

For the past eight weeks, we've been going swimming .



It has been the best experience that I have ever had. I can remember the first day I began swimming, I was really terrified of the water. I hardly went in. As time went on, I got used to the water. It was great!!



Amara Nwaneri, 4th Class

'I love swimming because I like doing the pencil jumps. Swimming is good because it is good exercise. Swimming is good because you do all different exercises instead of doing the same exercises.'

Nadine McAllister, 4th Class

COOKERY

Sixth class did cookery in school with Mrs. Burke organised by Ms. Egan, but ten people from fifth and sixth classes also got a surprise of cookery after school for free. It was for two weeks on Thursdays. Luckily I could go.

The first week we cooked pizza and jelly. For the pizza we could pick what we wanted on top. I was with Nicole and Emma and we picked pepperoni and ham, but there were lots of choices. Of course we had to clean up, but at the end we ate our delicious pizzas and we were all happy.



The second week we made cupcakes. At the end we could pick what we wanted on top. I did mostly chocolate. They were all lovely! I enjoyed the two weeks and I think I'm going to try them at home.

Esther Kodmon, 6th Class

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Thanks to the parents on the Local Committee who judged and helped with the bookmark Slogan Competition. Congratulations to the parents who presented their Storysacks to the Early Starters (parents) in St. Finians, Finglas.

The cookery classes for parents were a great success. Appreciation to Mary and Catherine who were involved with cookery and reading literacy support.

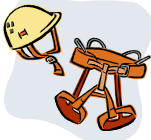
Thanks also to Sylvia (grandparent) who gave the pupils a wonderful account of the history of St. Catherine's (when she was a pupil).

We value our parents and the support they give us all in so many different ways.



Monica Egan, HSCL Coordinator

SCHOOL TOURS



Sixth Class visited Kippure Estate in County Wicklow. They were kitted out in safety helmets and harnesses and shown how to use the equipment. In the morning, they were involved in rock climbing, orienteering and travelled on the zip wire. After lunch they climbed a wooden tower, went abseiling, completed an obstacle course and walked the 'balance beam' high above the ground. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the activities!



Miss Ryan and Ms. Ní Bhroin's classes headed off to Lullymore Heritage Park on their tour. They started off with a train ride around the park. After that they learned about traditional Irish life, they explored the forest and played in the play centre. They visited the pet farm and saw lots of interesting animals. They also had the opportunity to pet the new kid goat who was only three days old! They had a wonderful day.



Miss O'Neill, Miss Heeney and Miss Stone visited Dublinia. They also had a look around Christ Church Cathedral and spent some time in St. Patrick's Park afterwards. They enjoyed their trip and have hopefully recovered from the fright Mary gave them at Dublinia.

Miss Haverty and Miss Gaynor visited the 'Spraoi' centre. Spraoi means fun in Irish. There there were twisty slides, rope bridges, tunnels, gym balls, ropes to swing on and relaxation areas. For our lunch we had an option of sausages and chips or chicken and chips. When we were finished playing we were called down again for ice-cream. After that we went to the Bogies and played some games. I was exhausted.

CLASS PROJECTS

Last week our teacher gave my class and I a project to do. It was to make our bedrooms in a shoebox. First we had to draw plans of what way it should look. We also had to look around the house for other items to make our furniture. I got a small popcorn box to make my bed. I got a perfume box to make my locker. I used tinfoil to make a mirror. I used coloured paper to make carpet, which I also used to cover my bed, locker and wardrobe. After I finished, I thought that my walls were a bit plain, so I cut some pictures out of a magazine and put them on my wall. My shoebox bedroom looks like my bedroom at home. Everyone's bedroom looked lovely and my teacher was delighted with them.



Shannon Kelly, 4th Class

A TRIP TO THE PHOENIX PARK

Second class headed off to the Phoenix Park for a day out after their Communion Day to enjoy the good weather. They enjoyed a picnic and games before visiting the new playground. They saw the Phoenix monument and Áras an Úachtarán on the way. They were all very tired after their day out.



Gracy Nasralla (5th Class) entered an Art Competition advertised in the Classmate magazine. Gracy was one of nine pupils from schools all over Dublin who won a prize for her depiction of sporting activities in Dublin. Congratulations Gracy!

