



St. Catherine's Senior School

NEWSLETTER

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SUMMER 2012

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents and Friends,

Summer has arrived and with it comes the end of another school year. We have had a busy term, with lots of visitors coming to St. Catherine's. Authors Sr. Maeve O.P. and Alan Early worked with the girls, giving them a unique insight into the writing process. Jim from Dublin Zoo told wonderful stories about the animals there. The girls enjoyed live music for our Seachtain na Gaeilge Ceilí and Transition year students from St. Dominic's College worked with sixth class pupils as part of their preparation for the transition to second level in September.

All classes have developed their camogie and gaelic football skills with coach Kevin this year. Second and Third classes worked with Sergio from 'Tennis 4 Kids' and made great progress during their lessons. Fourth class enjoyed swimming this term and Mary McKenna introduced fifth and sixth classes to athletics. Ms. Waters has continued their training at lunchtime.



Second class completed their "Do this in Memory" programme and celebrated their First Holy Communion in May. Their special day was a very happy occasion for everyone. Sixth class were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday by the Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Brown. We were delighted to welcome Archbishop Brown to our school to meet with the Confirmation classes beforehand, and the girls enjoyed a prayerful, memorable day. We thank Sr. Philomena for her untiring work with the sacrament classes. Also Ms. O'Neill and the choir and Miss Egan and the musicians for the beautiful music on both occasions.

We headed to the RDS during the Eucharistic Congress for singing with Monica Brown followed by Mass with Bishop O'Reilly. The girls were active participants in a joyful celebration.



Next time you pass St. Catherine's, you will see **two** Green Flags flying roudly! We have worked hard to ensure that our school building has become more energy efficient and were delighted to be awarded our second flag. Lauren Bradshaw, a past pupil of St.

Catherine's returned to raise the flag for us. Lauren recently won the gold medal at the European Taekwondo Championships and we wish her every success in the World Championships later in the year. We are very proud of Lauren and she is an inspiration to all the girls.



As our sixth class move to second level, we wish them the very best of luck in their new schools.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday and looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday 3rd September.

THE SACRAMENTS



It was a beautiful day, the sun was shining, it was my Communion day. I woke and was a little nervous. So I got dressed into my white dress. My Mum said that I looked beautiful. I smiled. All the guests and I went to the church. Then the mass started. My job was to read the Penitential Rite. I got my Holy Bread. After Mass, I had a party. The next day, we went to school and got our photographs taken. Then we went around the classes and showed them our Communion dresses.

Liua Gajek, 2nd Class



This year, Ms Garvey's and Ms. Heeney's classes made their Confirmation on the 27th of May in the Church of Most Precious Blood. There was a lot of preparation and work that went into it. Our Confirmation Books turned out beautifully. The Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Charles Brown confirmed us. I wanted to make my Confirmation so I could become a full member of the Church and receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. I had a wonderful day and the sun shone down on us.

Leah Donaldson, 6th Class

RIDING OUT THE HURRICANE

My class and I went to Miss Egan and read a book 'Riding Out the Hurricane'. We were in groups and every Wednesday we went to the parents room and read with Miss Egan, our teacher, reading buddies and parents. A few weeks ago, we all went over to Mary Bellew House and had a chat with the author of the book, Maeve McMahon. We had a great time asking questions and hearing all about how she got her ideas.



Nadine McCarthy, 5th Class

GERMAN LESSONS



Miss Gallagher's and Miss Ní Bhroin's fifth classes were offered to be taught German by the Dominics girls! We learned lots of new things, such as greetings, numbers and colours., On our last day, the generous teacher Miss McCarthy got us cake and other delicious food to eat. When it ended, everyone had been hoping they'd have German when they go to St. Dominics. Only time will tell! Danke.

Casey Dunne, 5th Class

LEARNING RECORDER

Miss Egan is teaching our class the recorder. At first, we used a pencil or a ruler to practise how to hold a recorder. Next Miss Egan took us in groups of four and she gave us recorders to use. The first note she taught us was B. After that she taught us A and G. Some girls have even learned the note D. We are enjoying the recorder lessons and hope to learn more. Thank you Miss Egan for giving up your time for us.



Miss O'Neill's Third Class

HOMEWORK CLUB

I'm in homework club since 2nd class. You get something to eat between 2:30pm and 2:45pm and after that you go to whatever teacher you have to do your homework. Next year I won't be in this school, so I will be doing my homework at home. My best memory is when we made pancakes and I halved mine with Nikita and we picked sugar as our topping.



Chelsey Maguire, 6th Class



RUNNING

On Tuesdays, a group of girls from Ms. Ni Bhroin's and Ms. Gallagher's classes went running in the Bogies with Miss Waters and Miss Haverty. We jogged, ran and raced around the trees. One day in February, we ran a cross country race against seven other schools. There were three races for different age groups. There were over 100 people running in some races. At the end, we got a bottle of water. It was lots of fun!

Lauren Ward, 5th Class

SWIMMING LESSONS



I had a wonderful experience learning how to swim for the first time ever. Swimming is a fun, cool, energetic activity which helps you exercise and burn fat in your body. With the help of my swimming teacher, I was able to kick my legs, float, hop in the water and swim like a dolphin. My teacher and my friends encouraged me. Today I'm proud to say I have accomplished my goal and I am not afraid to swim any more. I believe when you try to do something and keep on trying, you will get there!

Rochelle Osunde, 4th Class

GREEN SCHOOLS

We are happy to say that we achieved our second Green Flag for 'Energy'. Two girls from the Committee collected the flag in Croke Park. There were lots of other schools collecting their flags too. There are two girls out of each class on the Green Schools Committee. Amber and I are on it. There are eighteen pupil and two teachers, Ms. Savage and Ms. Garvey. Amber and I do spot checks on our own corridor and on Ms. Garvey's class. One morning we had a meeting. Everyone went in and the teachers told us that we had achieved our second flag. Everyone was thrilled. Our flag raising ceremony will be held on the 25th of June at 11:15am. My favourite memory was when we got told that we had earned our flag.



Nadine McAllister, 6th Class

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Thanks to the Parent/Team who participated in the Citywide Libraries Book Project by coming into the school weekly and reading the book 'Arthur Quinn' with small groups. Thanks also to the parents and grandparents who supported the children when they presented their work on 'Arthur Quinn' to a large group of HSCL Co-ordinators. It was a wonderful celebration of how parents, teachers and pupils worked together to promote enthusiasm for future reading. Thanks to the Parent/Team who volunteered their time each week to work with Ms. Ní Bhroin's 5th class reading together the novel 'Riding Out the Hurricane'. Well done to all those who completed the computer and practical crafts classes.



Parents—your support is invaluable.

Grateful thanks, **Monica Egan (HSCL Coodinator)**

TRANSITION PROGRAMME

During the year, girls from St. Dominic's College came to talk to us about going to secondary school. They told us about the uniform rules and we had a look at their timetables. The main changes will be that we will have lots of different teachers each day, will have new and different subjects and the times for school. On Tuesday, May 17th the sixth classes visited St. Dominics and were shown around by the pupils from Transition Year. I'm looking forward to meeting new people and making new friends. I'm a bit nervous about starting secondary school, but it will also be fun.



Kim Dooner, 6th Class

CAVAN CRYSTAL MAZE

Sixth class went on tour to the Cavan Crystal Maze. It was the best school tour I have ever been on, sadly our last. It was so fun. We went into groups. My group was called 'Donuts' and the other groups were 'Gav is gone' and 'Allstars'. We had to complete brain teasers and obstacles. Then my group went to the river and got all wet. Luckily we had brought spare clothes! After that we went to the forest and earned more crystals. It was the best school tour ever!



Rebecca Smyth, 6th Class

VIKING SPLASH TOUR

On June 22nd, both fifth classes went on tour. First we got the bus to Bull Alley Street to get onto the Viking Splash. When we got on, we got our hats and were told the rules. Then we set off on our tour of Dublin City. The driver showed us where the Vikings used to be and told us that we had to roar at people and call them Celts. After we got our tour of the city, he brought us into the water and showed us where U2 used to rehearse and their graffiti on the wall. Then we went into the park beside St. Patrick's Cathedral and had some lunch. On our way back, we went to McDonalds. We had a great day!



Demi O'Brien, 5th Class

DUBLIN ZOO

3rd and 4th classes visited the Zoo on June 7th. Here's what they had to say about their visit:

'We saw lots of exotic animals and the zookeeper showed all of us around the zoo. We saw reptiles in the reptile house' **Kelsey Cahill, 3rd Class**



'Bhí sé ag cur baistí. Chonaic mé tíogar, moncaí agus eilifint. Is é an tíogar an ainmhí is fear liom. Bhí sult agus spraoi again go léir.' **Megan Barrett, 4th Class**

'We saw the monkeys hanging out of the trees. Afterwards we watched the turtles swimming in the water'. **Caitlin Ledwidge, 3rd Class**

'We saw the youngest animal in the zoo, just 2 days old and it was called the tapir. After, we went to see the sea lions. They were all swimming except the baby sea lion. The mammy sea lion tried to get the baby into the water, but it was too cold for him.' **Chloe Gore, 4th Class**

CAUSEY EXPERIENCE

On Friday the 22nd of June, Ms. McDonald's and Ms. Stone's second classes went to Causey Farm. When we got off the bus, we had some food and then we went to see the pigs. Then we went on a tractor where we listened to a man talking about the bog. After that, we went to see the horses and went through a tunnel. We went to see the hens and we got to rub them. Then we saw the ponies, they were really cute. We had a great time.



Kacey Tully & Hannah Donohue, 2nd Class

50TH INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS DUBLIN 2012

On the 14th June this year, our whole school went to the 50th International Eucharistic Congress in the RDS. When we got there, we went into a big hall and we had a sing song with Monica Brown. Then a clown called 'Bubbles' came out and we danced and sang. Next there was a Mass. Eimear, Grace, Zsara and I were altar servers. The Mass went really well and it was great fun. I hope it comes to Ireland again!



Zara Blomer, 6th Class