

# Ballygarvan National School

## Newsletter: Halloween 2019



Welcome to the Halloween edition of our Newsletter.

It has been a really busy half term for everyone! From Theatre visits, Guide dogs, Maths workshops, Chess, Sciath na Scol and of course 'Wellbeing Month' there's lots to read about! Have a lovely Halloween everyone!

### STAFF NEWS

The BOM were delighted to see so many pupils use the new footpath from the GAA Carpark to access the school. It is a safe and convenient facility and we thank the Ballygarvan GAA again for accommodating us. We had a lovely Opening Ceremony on Sunday October 20th.

The BOM welcomed the 53 new junior infant pupils who started in Ballygarvan in September. We also welcomed the 6 pupils who started here in other classes. We hope they have a happy and fruitful time with us.

We wish to congratulate Mr. Budds, who got married this month, and Mr. O' Mahony who will be getting married in November.

There was a very successful Friendship Week in September, and a Health and Wellness in October, co-ordinated by Ms. Jackie Fitzgerald. There were many activities organised for pupils and parents, and we were heartened to see so many contributions from families for Cork Penny Dinners.

Congratulations to the Boys Football team who won the Sciath na Scol Final and their coaches, Mr. O' Neill and Mr. O' Shea.

We wish Ms. Rebecca McEvoy every success in her future career, as she takes up a permanent position in Ballyheada NS.

The present Board is coming to the end of its term and the Chairperson wishes to thank all those who volunteered to serve on the Board of Management. Elections will take place for new nominees this month and we wish them every success in their new roles.

### PARENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

The Parents Association welcomed the new junior infant's parents with a cuppa in the halla.

The children were busy creating their Christmas cards for this year's fundraising events for the PA.

We held our AGM on 23/10/19 and thank you to everyone for attending.

On Friday 25th of October we are holding a disco for the entire school.

Hope all the children, parents and teachers have a lovely mid-term break.

### POSITIVE WELLBEING MONTH

We have had a fantastic October of Healthy Eating and Positive Wellbeing. Our focus was on Be our own change. As a school we explored many different activities to allow us to be more in the present moment: guided mindfulness in class, Drop everything and read, Drop everything and dance, Drop everything and colour

We had some lovely healthy treats; fruit and smoothies. We had wonderful donations from various shops and business's to help us on our wellness journey. Dunnes Stores donated fruit, Chia Bia donated the Chia seeds samples, Glenisk donated the Go-yos for the Juniors to 2nd class. Carrigaline Court donated a month's family gym membership.

We had Nutrition talks for parents and children. We had healthy fruit and vegetable smoothie and of course our Penny Dinner collection which has had a fantastic response. We all, children and staff have enjoyed working on this together. A big thanks to Yvette Frost of the Board of Management for being a fantastic support during

the month, to the parents who helped out with the smoothie making, to the Parents Association for sponsoring the Nutrition talk ,to all the parents of the pupils who are a constant support to the school and to the children. We are the change. Keep up the practice going forward.

## JUNIOR INFANTS



Junior Infants are settling in well. They have been very busy learning letter sounds, practising their pencil grip and working on their cutting skills with a proper scissors. They have been on a nature walk to the Old School grounds, toured the whole school, visited the sensory room for some quiet time and been involved in story time with sixth class pupils.

Station teaching is proving a success with the children focusing on a variety of skills. Yard buddies in the form of sixth class children have helped them find their feet during outdoor play time. The children have learned several rhymes and helped decorate their classrooms with lots of Halloween Art. Elmer and Coco are enjoying their trips home- the photos and write ups are much appreciated!

## SENIOR INFANTS

In September, as part of our SESE programme we learned all about 'Our Five Senses'. We went on a sensory walk around the school grounds and recorded all the things we saw, heard, smelled and touched. We were looking for signs of autumn and collecting fir cones, acorns, chestnuts and colourful leaves for our nature tables. Our favourite experiment was when we took part in food tasting while blindfolded. We had great fun tasting a wide variety of foods including cornflakes, tomatoes, raisins and carrots to name a few. Only the bravest of us tried the limes! For Space Week we learned all about Neil Armstrong's journey to the moon and made our own rockets.

We had a visit from Dogs Trust and we learned that a dog is for life. We learned how to be safe and responsible around dogs.

Our teachers are reading us Roald Dahl books. We've enjoyed The Enormous Crocodile and The Twits so far. Roald Dahl really makes us laugh. Friendship week was a very important week in senior infants. We made friend 'ships' and we learned how to be a good friend. We really enjoyed when half of Ms.Eliffe's class swapped with half of Ms. McGlacken's class.

We are busy with our Halloween theme at the moment singing spooky songs and making bats, skeletons and mummies. We are looking forward to our Halloween parade and spooky treats on Friday.



We went on a walk to the old school and took bark and leaf rubbings from the horse chestnut tree. We are watching it closely for all the changes that are happening as winter approaches.



## 1<sup>ST</sup> CLASS

1<sup>st</sup> Class have had a busy half term. They have settled well into the longer day and are all working very hard. They are working especially hard on their reading and many of the children have brought in some of their favourite books to read for DEAR time and to read a little for the class.

During Space Week we learned all about the Apollo 11 Mission and the first moon landing! We wrote all about it in our SESE copies. We have been working very hard on our handwriting also and it is getting neater by the day!

We really enjoyed the visit by the theatre company where we got to watch a production of 'The Little Princess'! We also had a visit from a speaker from the Guide Dogs which we really enjoyed. He talked to us about how to look after our dogs and what we should/shouldn't do when around dogs.

For Halloween we had great fun making Halloween collages and masks! Happy Halloween everyone!



## 3<sup>rd</sup> CLASS

Third Class have been working very hard so far this year. We've started learning a lot of new things for the first time, like multiplication tables and joined handwriting. We've also recently started our Creative Writing copies and we have great fun every week picking a new theme to write about. We really enjoyed Friendship Week when the two third classes joined together to create a "Friendship Web" and thought about all the different types of compliments we could give to our classmates. We've also had some very interesting history lessons, learning all about Irish

myths and legends such as the Salmon of Knowledge and the story of Setanta.

## 4<sup>th</sup> CLASS

Fourth Class have been very busy this term. We made friendship posters for Friendship week and we painted lovely Autumn trees in Art. We looked at the art of Claude Monet and Hokusai and made paintings inspired by their famous works. We learned a lot about the Rugby world cup and completed projects on the different countries involved. In computers we are learning about 'Scratch' and we are also working on our comprehension on 'Readtheory.org'. We have used Microsoft word for typing and PowerPoint for projects.

We are starting to learn the tin whistle and hope to learn our first song soon. In PE we have learned a lot about the skills in Basketball and we are looking forward to the Basketball Development Officer in Cork who is coming into the school to teach us more about the game. We are looking forward to Halloween and our Mid-Term break.



## 5<sup>th</sup> CLASS

We are back!! 5<sup>th</sup> class has been busy so far. Lots of secondary schools came to talk to us about options after 6<sup>th</sup> class and we even got to visit Carrigaline Secondary School and the boys visited Críost Rí as well. We got to see the various labs / classrooms and had mini-experiences in each. We've had a visit from a representative from Dog's Trust, who spoke a lot about the responsibilities of dog ownership and that animals should not be gifted. The lifetime lab came with their Maths puzzles, some of which were really challenging and all while we continued with the

work of the week. There is certainly a big jump in the 5th class material, however, so far so good! Full steam ahead after midterm again! Enjoy the break everyone!



### Ms HAMILTONS 6th CLASS

Ms. Hamilton's Sixth Class have been working hard this term. We did projects on Ancient China and wrote newspaper reports on local events including the Douglas fire and a sighting of a ring-tailed lemur in Ballygarvan!

We used the new iPads to search for and measure lines and angles around the classroom and animated characters from our Irish stories. We had a workshop about Marine Biology from Lifetime Lab and are completing our own research for projects about anything Marine.

We are also working on Maths Eyes projects and recognising Maths in our surroundings. We are looking forward to our Ceremony of Light in November.

### Sciath na Scol Champions!



Congratulations to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class boys who won the DF1 Sciath na Scol vs Aghada in a very close match in Páirc Uí Rinn. Final score 2-3 to 0-7

### GREEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The new path between the GAA carpark and the school was open for the beginning of the school year and is proving to be very successful. Thank you to all parents who are dropping off their children to the GAA and encouraging them to walk up the path every day. Everyone benefits as the school road is freed up from traffic and parents save lots of time dropping and going each day.

We had a fantastic WOW day on October 2<sup>nd</sup> – it was brilliant to see such a wonderful crowd walking from the carpark or the estates. Our next **WOW day** will be on **Wednesday November 13<sup>th</sup>** so we hope everyone who didn't get a walk the last time will join in this time. In the meantime continue to find better ways to travel to school – either by walking, parking and striding, carpooling, going by bus, cycling.

We are introducing the **GOLDEN BOOT AWARD** after mid-term.

This will be given to the class who tries the hardest trying to be greener by walking, cycling, parking and striding, carpooling over a period of 4 weeks.

## CHESS CLUB



In October, we had the first chess lessons in Ballygarvan National School's brand new chess club. Students are learning piece-by-piece how to play chess, and improving their skills by playing mini-games.

The students have been very enthusiastic and excited playing chess and we hope to run more chess lessons after Christmas. A big thank you to all the parents who supported the club!

