

# St. John's N.S. Ballisodare



## *Newsletter*

September – October 2017

The first eight weeks of our school year have been very busy with lots of activities on all fronts. I am happy to say that all our pupils especially our new junior infants have settled in extremely well and are enjoying life in “big” school.

### Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to Ms. Ni Chuanaigh from Galway who has joined our staff on a part-time basis. She job shares with Mrs Bruen in 2<sup>nd</sup> class and we hope she enjoys her time with us.

### Speedy Recovery

Everyone in our school wishes Geraldine a speedy recovery from recent knee surgery. We hope to see her back in her office soon. We welcome Geraldine's temporary replacement Elaine Mc Nabb to St. John's. She is another friendly helpful person in our office and she is getting used to her new surroundings.

### Parents Association

The Parents Association held their A.G.M. on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>. On behalf of myself, our staff and the B.O.M. I would like to thank the P.A. for all the work they do to make our school a better and more enjoyable place for our pupils. A special word of thanks to the

outgoing officers Chairperson Gillian Connolly, Secretary Sinead White and Treasurer Brid Cotter. We wish the incoming officers Chairperson Liz Kelly (O'Grady), Secretary Lisa Corrigan and Treasurer June Murphy the best of luck in their endeavours for the next three years. The P.A. meets in the school on the first Tuesday night of every month and all parents are welcome to attend.

### **Student Council & Active Schools**

Each class nominated/elected one representative to serve on the Student Council and the Active Schools Committee. Any pupil who was a representative previously was not allowed to go forward for selection. The following are the members of the committees.

#### **Student Council**

Ava Mc Mullan

Mia Mc Kenna

Katie Pearce

Eabha Brady

Ellen Philips

Reuben Galvan

Lily O'Grady

Marty Gorman Murtagh

Darragh Morrissey

#### **Active Schools**

Kyran Gethins

Adam Graham

Christian Carabus

Michael Gallagher

Matthew O'Grady

Mairead Mc Intyre

Eva Middleton

Lucy Conlon Oates

Darragh Sweeney

To date the Student Council has organised a healthy eating poster/slogan competition to encourage all pupils to follow our guidelines. The winners will be announced

at our October assembly. They also have plans to introduce a “The healthiest Classroom” competition.

Last year Active Schools Committee gave us the idea of making the walkway around the perimeter fence and this is proving a great success. On dry mornings as pupils arrive for school they go for a walk – which is a great healthy way to start the day.

### **Witches & Wizards walk to school**

The Witches & Wizards walk to school this morning was a great success, with a great turn out of pupils and parents. We had some fantastic costumes on display. Thanks to the parents who put such effort into the costumes and make up and well done to Ms. Tighe and her committee for once again organising this enjoyable event.

### **Green Schools**

The Green School Committee serves for a two year term, so the committee we elected last year will remain in place for this year. The Green School Committee members are Mia Clarke, Travis Mc Donagh, Darragh Doyle, Lydia Mordi, Lee Loughheed, Amelia Doyle, Israel Mordi, Briana Gawley and Isobelle Meehan.

This year they will be working with Mrs. Mc Donnell on the theme of Biodiversity and all look forward to learning more about the wonderful nature all around us.

### **Playground Buddies**

Every year our 5th and 6th class pupils volunteer to act as playground buddies in the junior playground. To help them this year Mrs. Mc Mahon devised a few lessons to help

them in their role. Mrs. Mc Donagh and Ms. Haran taught the lessons and Mrs. Mc Mahon then gave a PowerPoint presentation to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils on their roles and responsibilities to our younger pupils. We bought hi-vis bibs and “Playground Buddy” badges for these great volunteers. Many thanks to Mrs Mc Mahon for undertaking to train and organise these pupils.

### **Junior Entrepreneur Programme**

6<sup>th</sup> class have registered again for the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. It is run to promote entrepreneurship among young people. Last year’s participation was a very worthwhile experience for our 6<sup>th</sup> class students so we hope this year’s class enjoy it as well.

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### **Sports News**



### **Athletics**

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 24 pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class represented the school at the Supervalue Athletics Festival organised by Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership. We qualified for two finals and all pupils go a certificate of participation, well done to all participants for their excellent behaviour on the day.

## Gaelic Football

All classes participate in football skills coaching with Aaron Breslin every Thursday. Luckily we are able to dodge the showers most Thursdays.

## Futsal (Indoor Soccer)

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November a panel of girls from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class are going to the I.T. to participate in the Futsal Tournament. They have to defend their cup which last year's team won. On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November the boys get a chance to play so we look forward to these tournaments.

## Swimming

Swimming lessons continue for 5<sup>th</sup> class pupils on Tuesday afternoons. Many thanks to the parents who help with the supervision.

## Primary Schools Swimming Championship

On Sunday last 22<sup>nd</sup> October, Matthew O'Grady 2<sup>nd</sup> class, Lily O'Grady 4<sup>th</sup> class and Clodagh Barrett 6<sup>th</sup> class represented the school at the Connacht Primary Schools Finals in Athlone. It was a most successful outing for these swimmers. Matthew won gold medals in two events, Lily got a bronze medal and qualified for two events in the National Finals, while Clodagh achieved a personal best time in both her events. Well done to these pupils.

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### Saving Scheme

6<sup>th</sup> class have started a savings scheme whereby participants can bring in a few euro regularly to save for their school tour to Delphi in June. The money saved is kept in a deposit account in the Credit Union.

### Lion King – The Musical

The pupils in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class under the direction of Mrs. Mc Moreland and Ms. O'Flaherty are busy rehearsing for a production of Lion King – The Musical which we hope to stage after Easter. Rehearsals take place from 3-4pm every Monday. To help defray the cost of buying the licence to stage the show 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils are organising a non uniform day on Friday 10th November. All pupils will be asked to bring in €2 on that day. Staging a show like The Lion King is a huge undertaking and many thanks to Mrs. Mc Moreland and Ms. O'Flaherty for giving their expertise and time for the pupils in our school.

### Maths Week

Hurricane Ophelia disrupted our preparations for Maths Week last week but we were very busy this week. Many thanks to Helen and Dolores for decorating the corridors with colourful shapes and numbers. Mrs. Walsh organised a Maths Quiz for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class on Tuesday and one for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class on Wednesday. The standard was very high on both days. Tuesdays quiz was won by Tomas Toolan, Sanawal Waseem, Shannon Gallagher and Grace Staunton, while Faye Parkes, Darragh Morrissey, Sean Cubican

and Alicia Corrigan were victorious in the senior quiz. Yesterday the pupils in 5<sup>th</sup> class worked on a maths trail with the junior and senior infant pupils. Thanks to Mrs. Walsh for co-ordinating Maths Week for us.

### **Ballisodare Strictly**

Three of our parents Brid Cotter, Thomas Dooner and Patrick Barrett are participants in the upcoming Ballisodare Strictly Come Dancing event. They are hosting a number of fundraising events in the coming weeks. On Saturday night next Thomas is hosting a Fancy Dress Halloween Party in the Sally Gardens, while on November 11<sup>th</sup> Patrick is hosting Rock & Roll Bingo also in the Sally Gardens. Your support at these events would be very much appreciated, and we wish Brid, Thomas and Patrick the best of luck on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Mid Term Break**

The school will reopen on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 9.20am. I hope all our pupils and their families have a safe and happy Halloween.

David Dillon

October 2017

