

St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

October 2014



RTE SHOW– Una's Dream Ticket

45 boys who wrote letters to get their chance to travel to Dublin to be part of the Audience in RTE for Una's Dream Ticket. They had a great day and thanks to Damien Dillon (PA) for organising it and to teachers Ms Ward , Mrs Kelly and Ms Treacy for going with the boys. A full (Better written!) account will be on the website and in local paper shortly from our aspiring journalist Darragh Cleary (6th Class)

Offaly schools Gaelic Football Champions : Congratulations to all the football panel under the management of Mr. Kennedy on the recent success of winning the schools football title. The team trained hard with a great team spirit and played with fairness and honesty of effort in each game. They were unbeaten all year and defeated a good Crinkle team in the final by a score of 1-4 to 1-2 with Captain Nathan Williams lifting the cup. Please forward any photos to principal@stbrendansps.ie for our website etc

MOBILE NUMBERS– Please inform school if you change number.

Dates for your diary:

MID TERM School closes 2pm/3pm (as usual) Friday 24th October
School reopens (as usual) Monday 3rd November

Halloween Disco organised by Parents Association
Wednesday 29th October 7.30-9.30pm : Marion Hall

Science week Mon 10th—Fri 14th November— Watch out for visiting reptiles and snakes sometime this week !

Boys and girls table quiz : Fundraiser with Boys and Mercy PA
Sunday 16th November at 3pm

Parent Teacher meetings **Wednesday 26th November 3-6pm**
Thursday 27th November 3-6pm

St. Brendans Day mass Friday 28th November 10am Mass—All welcome

Hallelujah choir concert Dublin Thursday 4th December
(Thanks to Ms Ward for all her work towards getting us involved again this year and a message to the boys who are taking part– It will be epic!!!)

Hullabaloo arts festival in Birr– Delighted to be at the launch with 5th and 6th class boys.
Great events on for the boys during Halloween. Enjoy !

Pottery with Fin O'Hara : We are delighted to welcome Fin back for pottery tuition with the boys from 2nd / 4th / 6th classes. He will do 5-6 weeks of brilliant hands on lessons with the boys where they get to create and take home some “Masterpieces” . Pottery will be on **Monday starting Monday 3rd Nov.** and we ask the boys to bring an old TSHIRT / SHIRT to wear so that our lovely uniforms don't get dirty.

Hurling Coaching : Unfortunately the Offaly coaching team could not set up coaching for the school this term. Apologies to all the boys but the message is to keep hurling away yourselves. Coaching will return in term 3.

Maths Week 2014

We had a great week taking part with the national maths week 2014 campaign. Classes took a little more time to look at maths in a fun way with daily math problems around the school. Mr. Cunningham also set the senior classes up for registration with the math online game programme MANGAHIGH. Around 350 school (Primary and secondary) took part with our school achieving an amazing3012 Points/ medals to come in 26th place overall in Ireland. This was a great achievement with 128 boys from the school taking part against some schools with 500 pupils playing. Many thanks to Mr. Cunningham and the boys for the great effort and we hope you enjoyed the week. Special mention to Edvinas Ozelis with a staggering 141 gold medals , 17 silver and 23 bronze medals in ONE WEEK ! What a player and what a talent at Maths !



Mid– Term Prayer Service for Junior Infants This Thursday Fr. Cahir will join the boys and parents from our Junior Infant class for a mid-term prayer service in their classroom. The boys will sing a few songs under the direction of Ms. Ryan and music teacher Ms. Majella Killeen. They have made a great start to their school life at St. Brendans PS and we thank parents for your continued support.

School Uniforms : All boys are asked to wear **FULL UNIFORM** on non-PE days and school track-suit on designated PE days. Boys not wearing these uniforms will not be representing school at mass/ castle trips etc. Also thanks to families for supporting our position on no team jerseys under uniform or for sports coaching—Rugby etc.

Special mention for the boys from 6th class who attended the ROSARY RALLY in the church this week. We had 10 boys who volunteered to go before the church to lead a decade and many others who attended on the night. What was striking were the compliments for our boys from the congregation afterwards and for the team of servers from 5th class who were excellent. To be so well presented, well behaved, confident and giving of their time(on a champions league night) is indeed something to be proud of and setting a great example for our younger pupils.

Cycle safety: ALL boys to wear helmets (Jackets on dark mornings)

Notes in brief

We are delighted to announce that we plan to open an ASD class in September 2015. ASD stands for Autistic Spectrum Disorder and the class will be for boys who have been diagnosed with Autism and have been recommended by outside professional agencies, a placement in a special class. St. Brendans PS has a long history of catering for children with different needs and we are looking forward to welcoming new students to the school. This class will follow on from the opening of a class for pupils with Mild General Learning difficulties this past September (2014) and will further enable us to provide the best education to all boys from Birr. The class has been sanctioned by the National Council for Special Education and we await sanction from the Department of Education.

Fire safety at Halloween .3rd class got an information chat about bonfire and firework safety at Halloween. We ask all our boys to stay safe this Halloween.

Cyber Bullying and internet safety : We were delighted to have Garda Connaughton come to the school to talk to all boys in 4th, 5th and 6th classes about internet safety and the dangers of cyber bullying. It was a very informative talk and we hope that families chat about this at home and especially look at our new anti-bullying policy and appendix regarding Parental responsibilities with regard to social media and safe internet access.

Team Hope— Christmas Shoebox appeal : Mr Kennedy would like to thank all the boys and their families for the great response to this year's campaign. Altogether 61 boxes full with toys, colours, socks, books and other gifts will be collected from the school and sent around the world to children who have never got a gift or present before. Postage etc will be paid from the proceeds of the SKIPATHON. Thanks to Mr. Kennedy and his team of helpers and to the generosity of our school community.

Rugby Coaching : Thanks to Peter for the wonderful rugby coaching again this term which 5th and 6th enjoyed. 6th are looking forward to a blitz with other schools after mid term and coaching will start for 3rd/4th.

Car Park safety: *We once again appeal to all parents/ guardians / people who are collecting our pupils, to not park in staff car park at any time.* **RSA STREETSCAPE** : *We were delighted to get the RSA to the school to do the workshops with SI / 1ST / 2ND / 3RD / 4TH classes.*

Hope you all have a happy and safe Halloween break.

Kind regards, Niall Crofton (Principal Teacher)