

# **St. Brendan's Boys P.S.**

**January-February 2015**



“ All primary school pupils to get their own mobile phones” – Well, that was the argument proposed by the 6<sup>th</sup> class debating team of St. Brendans PS last week. Needless to say the boys spoke passionately on this subject. They took part in the Primary school debating competition organised by Laois Education Centre. It was the first time the school had taken part in the competition and they were excellently prepared by class teacher Mr. Damien Cunningham. They had an excellent and enthralling debate with the team of girls and boys from St. Ciarans NS from Broughal who travelled through a snow blizzard to take part. Both teams spoke very well and outlined their arguments and sparks really flew in the crossfire round. It was an impossible decision for the panel of judges to pick a winner and it came down to small margins. In the end St. Brendans PS team got the victory led by super-captain Darragh Cleary. Team was Darragh Cleary , Nathan Williams , Padraig Kelly, Cain Long, Luke Nolan and Dean Byrne. They look forward to the next round!

## **Parents Association**

Reminder to please support our Church Gate Collection on weekend ( Sat 21st , sun 22nd Feb) all masses.

Thanks to all who took part in the recent TESCO BAGPACK in January. It was a great success thanks to the many hands who took part.

Birr Lions club holding a table quiz to support “ Help build our wall” campaign. Table quiz is FRIDAY 6TH MARCH AT 8PM in Dooleys Hotel ( Table € 20)

## **Dates for your diary:**

All of FEBRUARY

Green Travel SCOOTER challenge. Boys asked to scooter/ flicker to school each day for Feb. Scooter areas will be set up during some mornings and break-times.

**Mon 9th—Fri 13th Feb**

**Engineers Week St . Brendans PS**

**Thurs 12th Feb**

**Safe cycle training for 6th/3rd class**

**Fri 13th Feb**

**Travelling Theatre ( € 2 per pupil)**

**Oisín and Tir na nÓg**

**Thurs 19th/Fri 20th Feb:**

**School closed for mid-term break**

**Monday 23rd Feb:**

**School reopens**

**Mondays/ Tuesdays**

**Gymnastics with Emer-all classes**

**Monday 9th March**

**Start “Seachtain na Gaeilge”**

**Monday 16th/Tues 17th March**

**School closed—St. Patricks**

**Thurs 26th March**

**CD LAUNCH in Dooleys hotel**

**Friday 27th March @12.30pm**

**School closed— Easter Holidays**

**Monday 13th April**

**School reopens**

### **Sacramental notes**

Excellent Catholic school week held in school and enjoyed by all.

Masses Sat 14th Feb / Sunday 8th March / Sat 18th April

1st Confessions for 2nd class boys—Wed 4th March at 7.30pm

- Boys to wear full school uniforms

Also great to hear praise for our boys 2nd / 6th as they do readings / prayers and bring up gifts in a manner that represents the whole school in good light. Mile buíochas to all.

**Attendance Awards** Each term as part of our efforts to get boys to attend school as much as possible we award certificates. For Term 1(Sept-Xmas)a fantastic 31 boys had 100% attendance (15% of the school) and were presented their certificates at our assembly so well done to the boys and their families.. Attendance teams are a school initiative written in our school attendance plan developed by our hardworking staff to encourage boys to attend school more regularly. This is the 3rd year of this plan and we have received great praise from the Education Welfare Officer for our efforts in this area and the success that we are having. Teams are comprised of boys from 1<sup>st</sup> class to 6<sup>th</sup> class and the average attendance for each team is worked out on a termly basis. The winning team (Team 8)had average attendance of 73.125 days PRESENT out of 76 days. The boys have earned the reward of a trip to TEARAWAYS which we hope to organise in the coming week. Keep up the great work everyone!

## **School Notices**

- Staff car park is for STAFF ONLY . Please respect this.
- Enrolment week is now over for Sept 2015 and we will be in contact with families who have applied for enrolment later in Feb. Please inform any families still considering enrolment of their son next Sept to contact school ASAP.
- Please inform school of any changes to mobile numbers.
- Thank you all for the great effort with uniforms especially for days such as St. Brendans 10am mass in Catholic schools week as all looked immaculate / behaved like angels and sang like proud men of Birr !
- HSE have no news to report regarding HEP A cases and so fruit scheme will return after mid term. Boys to keep up good practices of washing hands / Gel with relation to this and all bugs at this time of year.
- Thanks to Peter Swanepoel for all his rugby training given to the school during the year. Peter has a new position which we wish him well with so there will be no more coaching this year.
- Christmas newsletter was supposed to be in colour but Murphy law– Copier trouble that day. Past newsletters are available on website.
- School Self Evaluation (SSE) report for NUMERACY is available to view on school website. Thank you for great feedback in Parent evaluation earlier this year and staff will be drawing up a school improvement plan for the areas outlined this year.
- Set of 5 IPADS have been sourced as a valuable teaching and learning resource for Mr.Carroll's class and other classes which may wish to use them.
- Well done to our Credit union quiz teams who were in action last Monday night. Both teams performed well and enjoyed the event with the senior team coming in 5th place comprising Sam Smith/ Josh O'Meara / Michael McCarthy and Conor Franks. Junior team did well and they were Conor Kelly / Adam Duffy and Charlie Gallagher. Thanks to Mr. Cunningham for organising the teams.

## **Hurling**

Congratulations to Mr.Kennedy and his hurlers on another triumph at the Offaly Indoor hurling blitz in Shinrone. We entered 3 teams with over 30 boys getting the opportunity to play and it was great to hear of many boys making school debuts in the famous black and white hoops. All 3 teams reached finals with 2 teams winning and one team being defeated by last puck of the ball. All played with great skill , heart and pride. Well done to all and sincere thanks to the parents who helped with transport to Shinrone.

Indoor school senior league was also played with huge numbers of boys taking part this year. Team training continues each Friday at 2pm and school Championship will begin after mid-term. Thanks to Mr. Kennedy for his passion for hurling and to all the staff for helping with class arrangements over past few weeks without which travelling to Blitzes and training would not be possible.



## **Class activities in January 2015**

Junior Infants :We explored Theme of Weather and recorded it.In Art we created clouds using cotton wool and made umbrellas using paper plates. We painted snowmen and dressed them up using fabric. We sang songs “ In the Wintertime” and “The Snowman”

Senior Infants : We have worked on the theme of night and day. We looked at shadows and made our own shadows using torches. We also made different coloured lights and painted shadows of our faces

Rang 1: We learned all about Milk-Where it comes from and what happens after the farmer has milked the cows. We also learnt about what other foods can be made from milk such as cheese , cream , yogurt and ice-cream. We even made butter in class and tasted it on some delicious brown bread.

Rang 2:We have been working on our TITANIC records. WE learned about various facts on the journey of the titanic , the passengers on board and the events of the night when the titanic sank. We are enjoying the project!

Rang 3 : We learned about the country of PERU-Its location / history/ fame for animals such as the Alpaca and places such as Macchu Pichu. Also we wrote, edited , typed and FILMED scripts about Peru. W got to use Green Screen tech with John Crowe (Filmmaker) just like the movies. Stay tuned to hear more about this film project !

Rang 4 The class looked in depth at the vital organs of the Human Body ( Group project). They also started learning basic cooking skills and have made buns , cookies and muffins.

Rang 5 ( Ms.Egan) This month we explored the topic of “The Renaissance “- everything from Michaelangelo to Shakespeare ! Many changes happened such as the dev. Of the Gutenbery Press , paintings and sculptures became more realistic and Galileo , a scientist from Pisa invented the Telescope!

Rang 5: (Ms.Ward) This month we learned about Italy and the “Renaissance”. We had great fun creating our Modern day “ Mona Lisa” by Leonardo Da Vinci.

Rang 6 : On 8th January all roads led to our capital city and the boys attended and exhibited in the RDS Science show. Our project “ Why do Giraffes have such long necks” captured the attention of the general public and the media with an appearance on RTE by our own Cian Long. The boys also got to see the other great projects and shows on display and had a great day. To see the full story of our visit—please see website....