

St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

March 2016 (Easter)



Visit of Bernard Dunne

We were delighted to welcome former world champion boxer and Irish legend- Bernard Dunne to the school in February. The visit was arranged through Carembola (Lunch provider) for Bernard to visit the school and speak with the boys as a motivational life talk. He spoke about his career, life choices and the benefits of living a healthy life through healthy diet and sport. He held the packed hall of over 200 captive for over an hour and the boys found him really cool and entertaining. As a spokesperson for promoting "labhairt gaeilge" he was delighted to be interviewed by three 6th class pupils- Kyle / Seosamh and Sean. The boys earned the "chance of a lifetime" to interview Bernard by doing extra gaeilge work at home in creating questions: Ar feabhas buachailli !!

Peace Proms concert 2016—Kilkenny

A highlight of the year was 5th class boys travelling to Kilkenny one Saturday in February to be part of the PEACE PROMS CHOIR 2016. The boys had practiced their songs and dance moves for months under Ms.Ward and they had a great day. Lots of parents who travelled were also blown away by the concert and the live orchestra. It is a marvellous opportunity for boys to experience this and one where you definitely get more out of than you put in. Dance moves of the staff who attended were not as good as can be seen on some videos 1 Sincere thanks to Ms.Ward for her hard work and to Ms.Kirwan, Ms.Pilkington and Mr.Crofton for giving up their precious Saturday to take the boys. Special mention to the group of boys who attended as they were a credit to their school and families.

1916 Marian hall show- DVD's recorded by Camilis King are on sale on can be ordered at school- Cost€ 10. An order will go in before Easter hols so please send in money if you wish to get a copy ready for april.

From Cavemen to 1916 and beyond.

All roads led to Marian hall Birr last Wednesday night 9th March as St. Brendan's Boys Primary school staged their historical production and tribute to 1916. Heritage has a major influence on the school and so they were delighted to have Michael Donegan (Former Principal) back to write and direct the first half of the show. Current principal welcomed the huge crowd to the free show and thanked the people of the parish for their continued support of the school. He also thanked the parish for use of their fine hall and to hall caretaker Martin Walsh for his support with the show. The stage looked fantastic with set designed by local artist George Dempsey and painted by pupils from the school with lights and sound by Phil Walsh kindly organised by parent Pierre Greijmans. Then the boys took over !

Boys from 6th , 4th and 3rd classes took the audience of over 600 on a journey from the glaciers of Ireland up to the famine. Classes came on for scenes in magical costumes to a rocking soundtrack as they retold Irish History through the first farmers , celts , , Christians , Vikings , Normans, Plantations, Penal laws and suffering of the famine times. All through this they had a commanding performance from the director (Jack) and the story kept great flow through the narrators (Paul and Jack).The audience were on an emotional roller-coaster from laughter at the ABBA dancing Vikings to sorrow with the famine dead. Then came the interval with tea/ coffee provided by parents association and shop.

The second half began with 120 boys on stage playing a tin-whistle medley of Irish traditional and republican songs and a booming version of Fields of Athenry. The 5th class under Ms.Ward and placement student Eoin Pilkington then held the audience spell-bound with their version of "Triumph of Sorts" written by local principal Damien White. Drums and rifles were to the fore as Pdraig Pearce (Darragh) led the rebels to the GPO where the proclamation was dramatically read aloud to the audience with drum beats bellowing. It was special to see the proclamation being read aloud by pupils born in other countries but who now see themselves as Irish. This is really Ireland in 2016. Music and song interspersed this part with Banna strand and foggy dew being sung with a highlight of grace being sung by 5th class accompanied by the talented Ms.Pilkington and Ms.Ryan.

Thanks were expressed to all through the booklet on the night for all the elements that go into a show of this scale with funding support from Offaly Arts Council and Birr Lions club. Mr Crofton thanked the audience and community for allowing the boys the opportunity to perform on stage and to celebrate 1916 in this manner. Michael Donegan was thanked for his time, energy , passion and inspiration to the show and he then spoke of the pride he has in the school , the boys and the school community which is such an integral part of Birr. The audience then sang the finale of Amhran na bhFiann to conclude the night and send the audience home with a spring in their step and happiness in their hearts.

We hope it was both educational and entertaining and respectful to the memory of the heroes of 1916.

School Notices

- Staff car park is for STAFF ONLY . Please respect this.
- No school lunches tomorrow—wed—12.30 pm finish
- TRAFFIC on Moorpark st will CHANGE DIRECTION after Easter break so please be careful in mornings and afternoons
- Thank you all for the great effort with uniforms—Boys looking well !
- Thanks to all our Fruit volunteers and boys from 6th class who give out the school lunches early each morning
- Green schools committee held a very popular SCOOTER / BIKE day last Friday and the TY boys helped to set up a cool obstacle course at break times.
- Time was against us this term as we didn't get to go to tearaways as attendance award for term 1- PROMISE we will go in early april when we return !

Chess

Chess with John was very popular again this year. The benefits of learning and playing the game for overall concentration and learning are immense. After the 4 week programme the class winners were:

6th—Dean Doyle

6th Aurimas / Kevin / Evan

5th Darragh McNamara

4th Adam / Tymon / Sam

Home- School

Many thanks to all the parents who volunteered to come in for Ready Set GO Maths stations in Junior Infants earlier this month. The boys really loved the project.

Community games art and craft 2016

Well done to all the boys who took part this year. We had a great entry and thanks to all the teachers and Mrs. Kelly for promoting this great event. Special mention must go to the artistic boys in 5th class who had some fantastic entries. We hope to hear from Catherine Barry after the Easter Break about any medal winners we had.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 16th March @12.30pm School closed- Easter Holidays
Monday 4th April School reopens

Sacramental notes

First Communion ceremony— Saturday 7th May at 11am

Confirmation ceremony- Saturday 21st May at 1pm . Full uniform to be worn

County Photos—Thursday 26th May

6th Class confirmation retreat- Friday 15th April

Parents Association Notes

Our annual church gate collection place on the 20 & 21 of February .Many thanks to all the parents who helped out over the weekend and thank you for supporting our collection

What a great night we had last week in the Marion Hall. A big thank you to all the businesses and the parents who sponsored prizes for the raffle and to all who bought tickets on the night .

The winners of our STYLE MAKEOVER will be drawn on April 1st . Our 3 lucky winners along with Birr's Operation Transformation leader Damien Dillion will strut their fabulous new look on the catwalk in DOOLEY 'S HOTEL at our Summer Style Showcase on April 8th @ 8pm And yes the staff, parents and boys of St. Brendan's will be modelling this years Summer Trends in clothes from The Closet , Jerros , The Dress Bar, Contemporary Bride and Galvins Menswear.

WEDNESDAY (TOMORROW) is the last day to return forms to be in draw to be a child model at the fashion show.

It promises to be a fantastic night of fun and entertainment .

Tickets are €10 and are on sale now - available in the school office and participating businesses .

All monies raised from these events will be used to update the school 's computer room. This fundraising is badly needed and all pupils will benefit from improving IT in the school.

Our next meeting is on April 5th @7:30 pm in the staff room of the boys school . New members are always welcome :)