

# St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

January- 2018



## Credit Union Quiz

Thanks to Mr Cunningham for organising trials for our school team.

U-13 team was : Steven Dillon / Sam McAuley / Conor Lally-Greijmans and Charlie Loughnane

U-11 team was : Reece Swanepoel, Barry Tierney , Harry Reynolds , Alex Hough

Both teams enjoyed the night with the u11 team coming 6th. Thanks to Mrs Kelly who attended on the night. Well done to all ;)

## Junior infants - September 2018

Parish schools held their enrolment week last week. We were delighted to have great interest in places with over 20 registered . Enrolment closing date is at mid-term. Please pass on this message to friends / family .Enrolment forms can be collected from the office and new families can call to meet principal and see the school.

## School closure—12.30pm—all classes

I would like to inform you of the implementation of the 2017 Children first National guidelines/ 2017 DES Child Protection Guidelines. All schools have some new measures to put in place and are directed to close for two half days this school year. Schools are not currently permitted to combine half days.

**Our school (along with Mercy Primary) will close for half day (12.30pm next Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February) to facilitate staff training.**

The other half day will be planned for term 3. We ask families to make arrangements for collection and childcare on that day.

Many Thanks for your cooperation, Niall Crofton

**Catholic schools week** took place at start of February. Senior classes ( 3rd–6th) attended 10am mass on Thursday 1st February.

1st Confessions for 2nd class boys—Tuesday 6th 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 buiochas to all.

Thanks as well to our boys in 5th / 6th classes who are **mass servers** at Birr Church. It is a great and responsible job they do which is appreciated by the school and parish. We encourage any boys / families who would like to get involved to chat with Emer Scully at the Parish office.

### **Text-a-parent system**

We would ask parents/guardians to keep school informed of any changes in mobile numbers as home-school communication is very important for us.

**Lunchtime dodgeball league 2018-** We had almost 100 boys playing each lunch break for the past few week organised by Mr Crofton with great help from some 6th class boys- with the boys getting plenty of exercise in the hall. The finals have been played with winners being TEAM E who defeated TEAM F. The dream team game is to be played next week where they will take on the staff team in what promises to be an electric occasion !!!!!

### **Chess with John**

We are delighted to have Mr John Alfred back to teach and inspire the boys of 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes in the world of playing chess. We hope to have a tournament at the end of the 5 weeks. Chess takes place each Friday.

**New school healthy eating policy-** A new school healthy eating policy was presented to BOM and ratified. This policy was drafted by committee comprised of parents and staff from both St. Brendan's PS and Mercy Primary. It will be sent home to all families before mid-term and will come into place from MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY. We encourage all families to use the wonderful healthy lunches supplied by Glanmore foods and there are enough options to try to satisfy the picky eaters out there too :)

## Warrior Run 2018

Our warrior run for term 2 has started . It is an OPTIONAL walk / run of laps around the school each Mon / Fri morning from 9.10-9.20. Mr Crofton will start from basketball court. This year we are going to run to Dublin—Croke park—138km- Operation Transformation- by Easter holidays  
Boys count their laps and teachers record each day. Laps are added on our display and progress can be seen.

All boys are encouraged to take part and will be supervised. Prizes will be given out by class teachers at the end for boys who embrace the warrior run in the spirit that it is designed through a draw system.

## Green Schools

We are busy working on the theme of Travel Maintenance this year. We have elected a new committee of members from 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> class. We encourage people to walk/ cycle/scoot wherever and whenever possible. We have also noticed that the levels of rubbish are increasing in our school bins and we ask that each child brings in an empty lunchbox to school to take their own rubbish home with them. Thank you for your co-operation. The Green School's Committee  
New committee elected—see website for details

## HSCL Update

Hope we are all springing into Spring!!

Sooooo much happening in our school.

Our Walking Group are motoring every Tuesday morning. If you're thinking about it...STOP and just come meet us Tuesdays 9.30am at the playground.

Our Baking class made some beautiful homemade soup and absolutely fab short-bread last week. Again, please contact me if you're interested in getting involved.

We had 2 new parents the last day and they loved it.

IT Skills course starting after the midterm. A yellow note has been sent home with all the info! Drop me a text if you would like to brush up on your computer knowledge.

Delighted to send home our Spring edition of our Maths Magician. The lads were so excited when they saw them coming around. Mr. Crofton will announce all the answers next Wed, 14th Feb.

Load of things coming up: Grandparents Day, Our fabulous new 'HEALTHY EATING POLICY' for EVERYONE!!! The excitement!!!, CPR days for our sixth classes and much more. Keep an eye on the Parent's Association Facebook page.

Richelle

Contact: 086 6045024 or email [hsclbirr@gmail.com](mailto:hsclbirr@gmail.com)



Our boys are loving their AISTEAR programme in the hall each Wednesday where they get to play , act , dress up—Themes change from doctor surgery to school classroom which is great for encouraging imagination and language development. Thanks to Ms Kirwan for setting up and producing such lovely areas for the boys each week.

As part of our School evaluation of science within our school, we held a science day back on Friday 12th January where all classes conducted a science lesson / experiment and staff are evaluating the lesson and our school plan overall.

**Junior Infants:** Junior Infants enjoyed learning about the differences between day and night for Science Day. They learned all about animals that come out at night and read a story called Owl Babies. They had great fun in art making their own owls and would love to say their owl poem for you. Just ask!

**Senior Infants:** Senior Infants became scientists and discovered how shadows were made using torches and various objects. We discovered that the light could not pass through the objects, unless it was see-through or transparent. This created a black shadow. We also used coloured paddles to change the colour of the light. It was really fun.

**First Class:** First class looked at Magnetism for Science Day. The boys learned that magnets have two poles called the North Pole and the South Pole. In pairs, the boys looked at various materials and investigated if they are magnetic. 1<sup>st</sup> class really enjoyed learning about Magnets!

**Second Class:** Second class were busy learning about how to lead a healthy lifestyle as part of Science Day. We then focused on teeth & how to brush your teeth properly. We looked at the step by step process that is involved each morning & night. We then used dental floss to get to them hard to reach places. Happy brushing boys!

**Third Class:** In science for the month of January 3rs class learned about heat. What heat is, where we get heat from & how heat keeps us warm? They learned the difference between a solid liquid and a gas. The children did experiments on how heat can make solids, liquids and gases expand. This was followed by how heat can change a solid to a liquid and that was reinforced by the making of rice crispy buns.

**Fourth Class:** 4<sup>th</sup> class looked at and learned the types of teeth in their mouth and their functions. They learned the elements that damage their teeth and how to protect them. The class has also looked at different ingredients required and the correct measurements used in baking.

**Fifth Class:** As part of our science lessons in January we studied sound and how it travels. We designed and made our own panpipes by cutting and assembling straws of different lengths. We had great fun trying to play a tune on our panpipes!

**Sixth Class:** 6<sup>th</sup> class studied about materials in science. We learned the differences between solids, liquids and gases. We learnt that matter is made up of particles and we examined the behaviour of particles in solids, liquids and gases.

The boys are really enjoying soccer training with FAI development officer Gary Seery.

**Ms. Kenny's Class:** In science, we were learning all about parts of our body. We sang songs & played some body part games & we completed jigsaws made from pictures of ourselves.