

## Offaly VEX Robotics 2020

This year boys from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> took part in VEX Robotics with Mr Cunningham and Ms Doyle. Ten boys from each class were split into 4 groups

Group 1 and 3 built one robot and group 2 and 4 built the other. Building the robot was easy but if one part of the robot was wrong you would have to make it again. We built the Robot arena in the hall.

It was annoying to build the cubes but it was fun. The coding for the Robot was the most difficult. We had to code it to pick up cubes and you had to get the perfect angle to turn it.

We went to Tullamore Secondary School to compete against 28 different schools, we didn't win but we all had a good day.

Written by Dylan Clear 6<sup>th</sup> Class.



## Board of Management

- The BOM carried out its annual Child safeguarding review and all procedures are in place. All details can be viewed on our school website. Reminder that DLP is Mr Niall Crofton and DDLP is Mrs Martina Mulqueen.
- Congratulations to our Chairperson Mr Pat Teehan on his appointment as Chairman of Leinster GAA council.
- The entire school premises both inside and yard are NO-SMOKING areas.
- The BOM asks all parents and families to respect the staff car park / Bus set-down areas and not to drive / walk through.
- Well done for the great support of the " Every school day counts" school attendance initiative which was a great success.
- Thanks to both Birr Juvenile Hurling club and Birr rugby club with their coaching support and recent donations of gear to the school.

## Junior infants - September 2020

Parish schools held their enrolment week last week. We were delighted to have great interest in places with around 20 registered again this year. Enrolment closing date is completed. Please pass on this message to friends / family to ensure that no local boy is left without a place. Enrolment forms can be collected from the office and new families can call to meet principal and see the school.

## Dates for your diary

Thurs 20/ Fri 21st	SCHOOL CLOSED- MID TERM
Monday 24th February	Parents talk- wellness
Monday 24th Feb	Gymnastics starts
Friday 28th February	12.30pm Finish for all boys ( Staff CPD)
24th—28th Feb	Pupil and school wellness week
2nd—6th March	Engineers week at St Brendans PS
11th—14th March	Seachtain na Gaeilge / Scoot 2 skool
Wed 11th March@ 7.30pm	First Confessions for 2nd class boys
Monday 16th/ Tues 17th March	SCHOOL CLOSED—HOLIDAYS
Friday 3rd April @12.30pm	Easter holidays ( 2 weeks)

**Catholic schools week** took place at end of January. Classes (1st-6th ) attended 10am mass on Thursday 30th January

1st Confessions for 2nd class boys—Wednesday 11th Match @ 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.

## 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. We are going to use email system also starting with this newsletter- GREEN SCHOOLS

## 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 also had 3rd class learning draughts and the boys have kept going even making their own boards and pieces from milk carton tops!! We hope to have a tournament later this year.

## Gymnastics

We are delighted to welcome Emer Feehan back for 5 weeks of gymnastics in the school. These will be mostly on Mondays starting Monday 24th Feb ( after mid term) Under health and safety we must insist that all boys wear runners and school tracksuit to take part. We ask for € 5 PER FAMILY to support with the cost of running this programme in school. The school will pay the rest of the cost. You can send in money after mid term please.

## Credit Union Quiz

Thanks to Mr Cunningham and Mrs Kelly for organising trials for our school team.

U-13 team was : Harry Reynolds / Toby Pardy / Leo Shannon

U-11 team was : Campbell Naughton / Charlie Hocter/ Peter Spain / Andre Mulcahy Viegas

Both teams enjoyed the night and performed well. Thanks to Mrs Kelly who attended on the night. Well done to all ;)

## HSCL update

Wellness week coming up after mid term so watch this space !!

## Parents Association update

Our annual church gate took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of February. Many thanks to all the parents who helped out and thanks to all that supported.

We have also arranged a talk with the National Parents Council to speak about Mental Health and wellbeing in children. This will take place **MONDAY FEBRUARY 24<sup>th</sup> in the school hall from 7-9pm**, all welcome to attend. This promises to be a fantastic talk and will help parents to encourage and promote positive mental health and wellbeing in their children.

Parents who attend this will:

1. Explore the factors that influence mental health and well being in their child.
2. Learn how to build and nurture resilience within their own child.
3. Be given tips on how best to support their child's positive mental health and wellbeing.

New members are always welcome, just keep an eye on our Facebook page of dates and times! Even if you can't make a meeting and would like to help out when you can, please just contact the secretary Sinead Conneely.

**Internet safety day 2020-** thanks to Mr Cunningham for organising and to our class teachers for their work on the day in various classes having discussions, watching the WEBWISE videos and overall supporting our pupils to keep safe in this new digital era they must all navigate.

## **Celtic Book fair 2019**

Thanks to all families for supporting literacy and buying books at the book fair. Total spent was €455.37 and so 60% of that amount was purchased in books by the class teachers to stock up class libraries.

Mile buiochas !

## **Hurling-**

Coaching with Adrian is going great with all classes. Boys from 2nd class accepted the donation of sliotars , helmets and hurls from Birr GAA Club presented by Michael and Charlie Loughnane, Mile buiochas :)



## January 2020 in the classes

**Junior Infants:** January was a busy month for Junior Infants with SESE-History, Geography and Science. They were learning about and exploring their five senses. They took part in a fun experiment exploring their sense of smell and touch. They explored the sun, moon and stars, learning all about the creation of the moon and the different size, colours and names of the stars.

**Senior Infants:** Senior Infants were exploring the theme of water during January. They investigated floating and sinking, made rainbow fish, talked about pirates and did a treasure hunt.

**1<sup>st</sup> Class:** First Class have been learning all about Australia Day. We learnt about the flags, different Australian animals and some boys were even brave enough to taste Vegemite!! We also explored the theme of weather and the boys enjoyed looking at met.ie to see the forecast for Birr.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Class:** Second Class went on a lovely trip to Tearaways as a treat for having the best overall attendance. They loved completing their projects and performing for all of the Grandparents and parents (which they did a great job in!). We are learning about the solar system and will be busy getting ready for Reconciliation over the coming weeks.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Class:** Third class have been learning all about the country Spain, its customs and traditions over the past couple of weeks. At the end of January we did a lovely performance for assembly. Presently they are learning all about the Great Irish Famine which is a huge part of our heritage.

**4<sup>th</sup> Class:** 4<sup>th</sup> class performed songs and tunes for Grandparents day and the boys really enjoyed the experience. As part of our history lessons we have learnt all about famous explorers including St Brendan the Navigator, Columbus and Tom Crean. Chess with John was enjoyed by all in 4<sup>th</sup> class.

**5<sup>th</sup> Class:** In January 5<sup>th</sup> class started researching various types of animals as part of our Digital Learning Framework set up by Mr Cunningham. We are really enjoying this and writing up reports on each animal. We also looked at poetry and we wrote our own poems-there are definitely some great poets in our class! For art, we studied Vincent Van Gogh and we recreated his painting 'Sunflowers'.

**6<sup>th</sup> Class:** We have had a busy couple of months in 6<sup>th</sup> class between Robotics, Chess, ICT project work and attending the 'Dream Space' in the community school to learn about coding. We also learnt about the general election, listened to some debates and wrote our very own election speeches.

**Mr Kennedy's Class:** Our MGLD class have been very busy this term. Their hens are laying well and business is thriving. A half dozen selling for €2. All buyers are welcome.

**Cairdeas I:** We have been talking about our emotions, when we feel angry and when we feel happy. We have made two fun trips to Supermacs, which made us very happy! We are talking about our homes and different rooms in our house. In art we made a bird. We are really enjoying hurling with Adrian.

**Cairdeas II:** During January Cairdeas 2 were busy learning new Winter songs. They learned the songs 'Put your coat on' and 'Mr Wind'. They also enjoyed their very first trip to Tearaways and had great fun on the slides.

**Greenschools:** We are concerned about the food waste in our school. We are urging all boys to bring their uneaten lunches home. Our committee are monitoring this and we will have a reward for the best class. Good luck!