

St. Brendan's P.S. Christmas Newsletter '06



Our school re opened on Friday 1st September. We were delighted to welcome 30 new boys. We wish them well on their educational journey through school.

Our hurling coaching was up and running early this year again under the expert eye of Noel Russell.



Our very popular 'Fruit for Juniors' scheme is again in action and many thanks to Margaret Teehan and her

hard working team of parents for making the scheme such a success.



Mrs. McManus again organised her annual Coffee Morning which raised €180 for the

Hospice Foundation.



Mr. Crofton and Mr. Carroll organised a Gaelic Football League at lunch time for the

boys. It was a great success with a large member of boys participating.



Our efforts to encourage our pupils to save continues this with our 'Sammy Stamps' scheme. All the boys will be saving for Christmas, many thanks to Mrs. Sampson.



Our start of year school Mass this year had the theme of 'Harvest'. All classes put in a great deal of preparation (singing, prayers, gifts, art, instruments, gospel-drama) and on the day the ceremony went very well. The boys were delighted to see such a large turnout of parents. Thanks to Mr. O'Connor for the music, Mrs. McManus for preparation, Fr. Cahir for the ceremony and especially to the boys who were all wonderful on the day.



On Monday the 8th of October the Birr Senior Hurlers visited the school with the cup.

Many of our past pupils were involved and they spoke to the boys on a variety of topics such as training, dedication, winning and losing, sportsmanship, team work etc. Thanks to Noel and the team for taking the time to come.



Our Web Site continues to be updated and is well worth a visit

www.stbrendansps.ie.

Many thanks to Emer and Ian Dolphin Murray for their continued support.



This year again our sixth class pupils participated in the Rosary Rally and represented us very well by serving at the ceremony and saying the prayers.



This year Readathon raised €3,800 for Multiple Sclerosis. Well done to Mr. Kelly and everyone who took part.



On 28 Oct. Fred Corvinio visited the school. He put on a wonderful magic and music show and left all ages spellbound.

October 18th Anne Barry Murphy and Br. Barry visited sixth class and gave a wonderful presentation on the life of Edmund Rice. This was the first step for the class in preparing for the Edmund Rice Awards.



A group from our school visited the Community School to see their show 'Oliver'. Many of our

past pupils were on stage and everyone had a great time. Many boys participated in the Community Show Art Competition. A great display of artistic talent was on show. Well done to Brendan Bergin who was a prize winner.



Ms. Doyle's and Mrs. Kelly's class visited the Castle and learned many interesting facts on nature and history. It was

thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Mrs. Kelly's class had a wonderful idea of dressing up as pirates as part of their Creative

Writing Project. It caught the imagination of the pupils and stimulated them to produce very creative stories and art work.



In early November we started our 'Gymnastics Thursdays' making use of our gymnastic

equipment and it was thoroughly enjoyable by both younger and older pupils.



Our senior pupils continue their classes in computer studies. Many thanks to Emer Dolphin Murray for

her time and expertise.

At the end of October we welcomed Anne Cleary to the staff. She is helping our non-national pupils develop their English Literacy skills.



We had a great display of art work from all classes for Halloween, witches, ghosts, scary masks etc.

were flying around the school all creating a wonderful atmosphere. 6th class had a scary story workshop 'The Scary Seanachai' for the younger pupils in which older and younger pupils dressed up and heard scary stories being told by 6th class pupils. Some teachers also dressed up for the occasion and cast some strange magic spells.

As part of our Green School Project some pupils from our junior and senior classes participated in an environmental workshop held in Tullamore based on the topics of 'Energy' and 'Waste'. Having been awarded our 'Green Flag' for working on litter and waste in June 2006 we are now working towards our second flag, by reducing our energy consumption (oil and electricity). Our new Green School committee boys were elected on Oct. 26th. They are Conor Nolan, Eric Byrne, Daniel Nevin, Jeremy Alexander, Cathal Kirwan and Luke Fogarty. Two groups of boys attended waste and energy workshops run by

Eco-Unesco in Tullamore last month. They found them educational and enjoyable.

On Nov. 23rd a preconfirmation meeting was held in the school for the parents of pupils making their confirmation and was followed shortly afterwards by an Enrolment Ceremony in the church.



On Nov. 24th a prayer service was held in our school to remember family and friends who have passed away.



On Nov. 29th many of our pupils celebrated St. Brendan's Day by participating in the 10 o'clock mass in the church. Pupils read prayers, brought up gifts, sang hymns and played percussion instruments in honour of our local saint. This event was followed shortly afterwards by an Ecumenical Service for St. Brendan in which many senior pupils did a drama of his life.



On Nov. 28th Senior Infants and Mrs. Owen's class visited the local library. They had a wonderful morning looking at and reading all the books on display there. In preparation for Christmas our senior classes performed our Advent Ceremonies each week. They read prayers, carried the wreath and lit the candles and all the school sang Christmas carols to prepare for the birth of Jesus.

Dec. 6th Mrs. Owens class visited St. Ann's in Roscrea for the festive season. Mrs. Owens class was also delighted to welcome back some past pupils from the Community School.



Dec 18th boys from the school visited the Hospital to sing Christmas Carols for the senior citizens.



Mr. Crofton's class were involved in a gymnastics project where they created and performed their own gymnastics routine to music. It was enjoyed by all. Many classes visited the school crib and prayed for the coming of Jesus.

Our Parents' Council have been very busy. They have sourced a new supplier and design for our tracksuit. More about this in the New Year! They are holding a bag packing fundraiser in Haslams on 21st 22nd and 23rd of Dec. proceeds are going to develop the 'School Garden'.

Vincent de Paul Food Appeal. This year again Mrs. McManus organised our Vincent de Paul Food Appeal. It was a great success and many thanks to both parents and pupils for all their generosity.



Our crib has been erected and some beautiful art work has been on display from all classes creating a wonderful atmosphere in the school especially coming up to Christmas.

Mrs. Sampson organised a very successful Table Quiz in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The pupils enjoyed showing off all their knowledge.

Dec 5th The 'Spring Onion Puppet Theatre' visited the school and performed a wonderful show called 'Androcles and the Lion' which was enjoyed by both younger and older pupils. They also gave a puppet workshop afterwards.



Bothar.

Mr. Carroll's class had a brilliant jumble sale and raised €430. Proceeds will go to

Holidays begin nest Friday 22nd and reopens on Monday Jan. 8th.

Nollaig Shona daoibh go leir o Scoil
Bhreandain Naofa.
Frumuas Cráciun.
Sretam Bozic.
Urdu.
Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia.
Statne Vianoce.
Linksmu Kaledu.

Michael Donegan,
Principal.



all the organization involved.

This year Santa arrived in an army tank complete with soldiers and jeeps. Thanks to Kevin McNamara and our Parents Council for



Please note our **Parent/Teacher Meetings will take place over 2 days 18th and 22nd Jan.** More information when we come back.



On behalf of all the teachers and children may I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Thanks to our Board of Management, Fr. Cahir, and Parents Council for their support, also parents who helped with sporting and other activities. Thanks to the hard working S.N.A.'s Delia, Mark, Chrissie and Mai for keeping the school running so smoothly and looking so well.