

St. Brendan's Boys PS

Newsletter - Summer `05

Dear Parents,

As we prepare to break for our Summer holidays, you might like to read about some of the events of last term.

Apr 5th We held a prayer service in the Gym and St. Brendan's Church for Pope John Paul II. The pupils from each class read prayers and we relived some of the moments of John Paul's papacy. Mr. Crofton's Class made a beautiful collage of the life of John Paul II.

Apr 13th The doctor visited the school to administer the Eye Test.

Apr 18th Junior Infants to 2nd Class held their Science Day in the Gym. A lot of testing, guessing, analysing and recording was done - enjoyed by all.

Apr 19th As part of the Writer's in Schools Project, Larry O'Loughlin and Nuala Lyons visited our 4th and 5th Classes. It was a wonderful experience for our budding young writers.

Apr 21st Marine Life Specialist Simon Berrons visited the school and gave an interesting talk to all classes on many aspects of marine life focusing on dolphins and whales.

Apr 26th We had our Senior Science Day - many experiments were performed in the Gym on topics such as air pressure - solubility, gliders and colour mixing.

Apr 27th The staff attended a Music Inservice Day as part of their preparation for its implementation in the Revised Curriculum.

Apr 27th Mr. Carroll and Mr. Crofton brought two soccer teams to Tullamore to compete in F.A.I. soccer blitz. Both teams reached the semi-final stages. Well done to all.

Early May saw the launch of our Green Schools Campaign. A committee was formed comprising teachers, pupils, parents and Mark our caretaker. The aim of our campaign is to be awarded the Green Flag at the end of 2006.

May 23rd Offaly P.E. co-ordinator (Emmet Scully) visited our school and involved our junior classes in a series of fun games - a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

May 4th All classes were exposed to the joys of Orienteering when Eric Naughton introduced our pupils to the sport of Orienteering which is now part of the Revised Curriculum. His vast experience in this field allowed him to design tasks suitable from Junior Infants right up to 6th Class.

May 3rd & 4th Swimming lessons started again at Birr Swimming Pool.

May 5th As part of their "Child Labour Project" 5th Class visited Portlaoise where they shared ideas with many other schools on their project. They also published a book as part of the project called Sums not Sticks, Words, not Whips. Well done to Mr. O'Connor and all the boys in 5th.

May 6th Baptism of Anthony Fazola.

May 10th Pupils in infants and 6th received their M.M.R. injections.

May 11th 5th Class attended a concert given by the Garda Band in Rath. All the pupils really enjoyed the occasion.

May 11th A Dental Hygienist gave a talk to the 2nd Class.

May 11th As part of an Inland Waterways Project, 4th class visited the Canal in Shannon Harbour. Under the guidance of the Inland Waterways coordinators, they studied the flora and fauna of the canal.

Under the direction of Ian Murray, new computers were installed in the computer room and all classrooms are now networked and broadband linked. Many thanks Ian for doing such a superb job.

May 12th Staff Meeting.

May 13th As part of our Green Schools Project a bin survey was carried out in all the classrooms.

May 14th First Communion - Mrs. Kelly's Class.

May 16th School Photographer arrived.

Classes 3rd - 6th attended swimming classes for 8 sessions and all children progressed remarkably during the period.

During May hurling coaching continued under the watchful eyes of Gary, Ollie and Noel.

May 17th Nell Doorley spoke to the pupils of 6th class informing them about the pioneer movement.

May 26th Anne Barry-Murphy and Bro. Stephen travelled up from Cork to present the 6th Class pupils with their Edmund Rice Awards. The boys performed a brief sketch on the Life of Edmund Rice and guest speaker was Fr. Pat Gilbert.

May 27th Mrs. Owens class held an Ice Cream Day to raise funds for the Downs Syndrome Association. Over €500 was raised. Well done to Mrs. Owens, Ms. Kirwan and the lads.

Our U/13 Footballers gave a great display of their football skills when playing Clara and Rode. Many thanks to Larry Lyons and Mick Kenny for preparing them so well.

Our U/13 hurlers took on Dromakeenan, Banagher and Shinrone and were very unlucky to be beaten in a playoff for a place in the final. As always they were very well prepared by Noel, Gary and Ollie.

May 31st Senior Hurling League started.

June 2nd We held our Casual Green Day - pupils were allowed casual clothes and they brought in €2 each. The funds raised will go towards buying a composter for the school.

School Tours - This year our classes were exposed to a wide variety of educational experiences visiting Birr Castle, Gleendeer in Athlone, Roscrea Adventure Centre, Tullamore and Galway.

June 10th we held our Sports Day in St. Brendan's Park. The pupils were divided into teams and participated in a wide variety of games challenges and fun activities. *Merve Salako* won this year's Br. Finian Cup. Many thanks to Mrs. Lonergan, Mr. Carroll and Mr. Crofton for organising everything.

June 10th Mrs. Therese Fennessey gave a very interesting and informative talk on "Growing Up" to both pupils and parents of 6th Class.

June 17th *Brian Delaney* and *Michael Pardy* represented Birr at the Regional Games in Dublin. There was a great welcome on their return with medals. We would especially like to thank Emer Feehan who trained and accompanied the boys to the games.

We welcomed back *Martin Carroll* after his recent operation. It is great to see Martin back in action again.

June 17th Mary Leonard from M.S. Ireland presented the school with their €1,500 Library Book Voucher.

Senior Infants with their teacher Mrs. Culloo and Mrs. McManus packed a picnic and headed for Birr Castle where they had a nice walk through the gardens and nice treats which they shared with their teddy bears afterwards.

June 24th End of School Mass - Theme was Thanksgiving - pupils sang the hymns and dramatized the Gospel as well as preparing the prayers of the faithful and art work. Fr. Cahir P.P. celebrated the Mass.

This year's Hurler of the Year went to *Sean T O'Connor*.

This year's Senior League winners were *Jimmy Irwin's* team.

This year's Junior League winners were *Peter Dooley's* team.

This year's Student of the Year Award went to *Stephen Lyons 6th Class*.

On the 20th /21st June, we had 30 very special visitors to our school. They are our new infants and we wish them every happiness as they begin their journey through our school.

A special word of thanks to all the parents who helped prepare the fruit snack for Junior Classes.

As the year ends, I would like to thank our Board of management under our Chairman, Colin Roddy, our School Chaplin, Fr. Tony Cahir P.P., our Parents Association under it's Chairperson Adrian Haines. I would also like to thank the many people who helped with our various activities throughout the year especially Noel Russell, Gary Cahill, Ollie Nolan, Larry Lyons, Michael Kenny and all those who were involved with coaching and training, also our very dedicated teaching and S.N.A. staff, our secretary, Delia, and our caretaker and cleaning staff, Mark, Chrissie and Mai. To our parents a sincere word of thanks for your support and cooperation.

Our New Website is now up and running. Thanks to Emer DolphinMurray for putting it all together. It is www.stbrendansps.ie

Keep an eye out for St. Brendan's entry in The Vintage Parade. Our theme is "Green Schools".

School will close at 12.30 pm on Thursday 30th June and reopen Friday 2nd September.

On behalf of all at St. Brendan's, I wish you a warm, relaxing and safe summer.

Best Wishes, *Michael Donegan* Principal