

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

Dear Parents,

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

April 25th – 4th class participated in a very educational Engineering/Design project organised by K'nex and the class progressed to the regional finals. Well done lads.

April 26th - Pat Speight entertained our junior classes with his wonderful storytelling skills and later shared his techniques with the pupils in a question and answer session.

April 27th -The Green Schools inspector arrived and we are delighted to announce that our application for the Green Flag was accepted. Many thanks to parents, teachers and pupils for all the hard work and especially to Mrs. Donegan whose enthusiasm and energy for the project gave everyone the necessary drive to complete the tasks involved. The flag was presented at a ceremony on Wednesday 28th June.

April 28th -We were delighted to welcome Tatiana Bonderava to the school to help our non-national pupils with numeracy and literacy skills.

May 2nd - Many of our pupils attended the Cinemobile and enjoyed watching Madagascar with their classmates.

May 2nd - Hurling coaching continued under the expert eye of Noel Russell. Many thanks to Noel for his efforts during the year.

May 2nd - Our Senior classes began their swimming lessons in the local pool under the tuition of the instructors. Great progress was made by swimmers and non-swimmers alike. We are very lucky to have such a facility on our doorstep.

Our u/13 hurlers had a great campaign in the championship this year beating Dromakeenan and Shinrone in the early rounds and then doing our school proud by defeating Banagher in the final. A great crowd witnessed a fine display of skill and determination. Well done to all. The u/13 hurlers also won the County 7a-side and progressed to the Leinster stages. Keep an eye out in Croke Park this summer for some of these players.

Our u/13 footballers also had a great campaign this year defeating Ballinamere and Rhode and great credit is due to all the trainers, selectors and parents who contribute so much of their time and energies in providing the pupils with opportunities to participate in the events.

May 9th – 6th Class organised a great display to celebrate Europe Day. A display of flags brightened up our school and caused great interest especially among our non-national students.

May 13th – 6th Class received the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Brendan's Church. Many thanks to Mr. Crofton, Mrs. O'Callaghan, Fr.Cahir, Fr. Greed and to Mr. O' Connor for all their efforts in preparing the boys and the day went off very well under the direction of Mrs.Ann Heffernan.

May 15th - Aileen Grimes gave an informative talk to parents on R.S.E. and this was followed up by similar talk to the pupils of 6th class.

May 22nd - Saw the beginning of our school tours with 5th & 6th going to Limerick, 3rd & 4th going to Kildare and 1st to Tullamore and 2nd to Turoe, Senior Infants went to a Teddy Bears Picnic in the Castle Gardens and the infants visited Glendeer pet farm. Also many classes availed of the fine weather and visited the Castle and Science Museum.

May 27th - Our 2nd class made their First Communion in St. Brendan's Church. Many thanks to Mrs. Kelly, Mrs McManus, our local priests, Mr. O' Connor and all the parents for making the day such a special occasion.

May 29th - Many thanks to the parents involved in starting the clean up of our school garden. The work is ongoing and we look forward to having a lovely area where our pupils can learn and have fun.

May 30th - Our entries in the Write a Book Project were a great success. Thanks to Mr. Crofton for organising the event and congrats to Wayne McDonagh, Jimmy McCarthy, James Loughrey, Jordan Parsons, David Kennedy, Corey Parsons, Conor Grimes, Darren Sullivan and Kevin Donovan who were prizewinners in the competition.

This term the teachers had two curriculum in-service days in History and Geography to help them implement the revised curriculum.

As always our various displays this year have been fantastic. They really create a great atmosphere in the school. An extra feature this year are the murals in the school yard. Many thanks to Ms. Gormley for the beautiful work she is doing.

June 7th - Mr. Carroll ran a very successful hurling league for the junior classes. The matches were played with great enthusiasm and a fine display of skills was on show for such a young age group.

June 8th - Many thanks to Emer Dolphin-Murray who continues her computer classes with our pupils. Many have reached a very high standard indeed and she continues to update our website www.stbrendansps.ie

June 16th - Our sports Day was again a great success this year for both juniors and senior pupils. Our mixed ability groups participated in numerous events in both a fun and competitive manner. The winning teams were Rory Bergin's team for the Juniors and Brendan Daly's team for the Seniors. Sean T.O'Connor won the Brother Finian Cup. Many thanks to Mrs. Lonergan for organising the day and to our parents for providing refreshments. Ice cream day coincided with sports day and thanks to Mr. Nagle for sponsoring the ice cream and €330 was raised for Down Syndrome.

June 13th - As we welcome our new infants on their first visit to our school, we wish them well as they take their first steps on their educational journey through the school. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish our 6th class well as they take the next step on the journey. They will be remembered for their academic, sporting and literacy talents and for a lot of great qualities that cannot be measure on test scores. Best of luck lads, we are very proud of you.

This year's student of the year award went to Jason Daly.

This year's hurler of the year award went to Corey Parsons.

This year's Senior League winners were Corey Parson's team.

June 22 - End of Year Mass - This year's theme was "Rejoice" - pupils sang the hymns and dramatised the Gospel as well as preparing prayers of the faithful and art work. Fr.Reddin celebrated the Mass.

A workshop on environmental issues was given to both junior and senior classes by Sennan Gardiner from ECCO UNESCO. The pupils learned about caring for our environment in an atmosphere of fun and enjoyment.

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

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 its Chairman, Noel Russell. Also I would like to thank Noel Russell, Gary Cahill, Ollie Nolan, Larry Lyons, Michael Kenny and all those involved with coaching and training. I would like to thank our Teaching Staff, S.N.A. staff, our Secretary, Delia, and our caretaker and cleaning staff, Mark, Chrissie and Mai. To our parents a sincere thanks for your support and cooperation.

School will close at 12.30 pm on Thursday 29th June and reopens Frid 1st Sept.

On behalf of all at St. Brendan's, I wish you a warm, relaxing and safe summer.
Best wishes, *Michael Donegan* Principal