

St. Brendan's Boys Primary School

Merry Christmas

Christmas Newsletter 2005



Pupils from 5th Class took part in Birr Vintage week Parade. Their display was colourful, Green and spectacular. This year's display was based on our "Green Schools Theme". Well done to our boys, staff members and our Parents Association for helping to produce such a wonderful display.

The school year opened on September 1st with an In-service Planning Day for Teachers. The arrival of our New Infants is always a great occasion in St. Brendan's. This year we welcomed 31 new boys. We wish them well on their fun and educational journey through the school

Our U/11 hurlers were in full swing early this year. On our first week back, Noel, Gary and Ollie had lunchtime training up and running.

A feature of the early part of this term were the many and varied displays that appeared around the school – including mini-garden displays, handwriting, Book of Kells designs and poetry to mention but a few. These displays really add to the school atmosphere and make St. Brendan's a wonderful place to work and learn in.

Our 'Fruit for Juniors' scheme is up and running again. Many thanks to Margaret Teehan and her hard working parents for making the scheme such a success.

Sept 15th Mrs. McManus organized her annual 'Coffee Morning' for the Hospice. €188 in total was raised. Well done to all.

Our U/11 hurlers played Shinrone in the first round and won. They then took on St. Rynaghs. They won the final with a fantastic goal from Peter Dooley to win by a point. Many keen observers said it was one of the most exciting finals they had ever seen.

Sept 21st our U/11 footballers took on Tullamore and won. Well done to Mick Kenny and his selectors for preparing the team so well.

Many of our boys were on the Birr U/10 hurling team that contested the county final. A great display of skill and determination was on show.

Emer Dolphin-Murray worked with 6th class developing their computer skills over the past term.

The homework club is up and running again this year. Many thanks to Ms. Margaret Teehan and Ms. Helen Kirwan for all their work and their pupils really enjoy the sessions.

Sr. Roberta and Sr. Kathleen have been helping out in the school giving English Lessons to some of our non-national boys.



Our beginning of school year Mass was held on 6th October. This year's theme was "Friendship". All classes did beautiful art work., 6th class dramatized the gospel 'The Prodigal Son', 1st Class performed an action prayer and boys from all classes read the Prayers of the Faithful. Mr. O'Connor organized the music and some pupils played percussion and instrumental music during mass.



This year's Readathon was the most successful ever in the school raising over €4,000 for Multiple Sclerosis.

Our savings stamps scheme continues this year and I'm sure the boys are all saving for Christmas. Many thanks to Mrs. Sampson for running the scheme.

On October 10th, our new Web Site was launched. This site gives a great insight into what St. Brendan's is about and is well worth a visit www.stbrendansps.ie. Many thanks to Emer and Ian Dolphin Murray for all their work on the project.

Congrats to Colm Mulrooney who won our web site competition.

A group of pupils from our 6th class represented our school at the Rosary Rally. They did a great job and we are very proud of them



Oct 17th saw the Birr hurlers visit the school as County Champions. Many past pupils were on the team. There was a fantastic display of silverware and we hope it will inspire our pupils to participate in sport in the spirit of fair play and dedication.

Our 'Reading Buddies' programme continues again this year and is much enjoyed by both younger and older pupils.

Class 7 continue with their visits to the pool developing their swimming skills under the guidance of Miss Hennelly and Mrs. Kirwan.



October 25th Fred Corvenio visited the school. He gave a wonderful show involving juggling, music, magic and was enjoyed by all pupils from Junior Infants to 6th.

Mr. Crofton's 6th class produced a great magazine titled "Ghoul School" in the lead up to Halloween. They sold the magazine and sent the money to charity. They also performed a wonderful show involving scary Halloween poetry.



Many classes produced great art work for the poster competition for the Community School Show, "The Wiz". Congrats to David Shiels in 6th class a prizewinner in the competition. A large group of pupils attended the show. It was a great show enjoyed by all with many of our past pupils on stage.

During Halloween there were some fantastic displays from all classes involving art work, and mask making creating a great atmosphere in the school.

Nov 9th saw the start of our 'Gymnastic Wednesdays'. Each class participated in gymnastic exercises and enjoyed the experience very much over a number of weeks.

During November both Communion and Confirmation meetings were held in the school

followed closely by enrolment ceremonies in the Church. We wish our communion and confirmation classes well as they prepare for their big days.

On Nov 18th we had a Remembrance Ceremony in our Gym for family and friends who have passed away. Mr. O'Connor organized the music and the pupils put names in the Remembrance Envelopes and lit some candles. Mr. Carroll's class made a wonderful Remembrance Display. This was followed by a similar ceremony in the Church on Nov 21st.

In keeping with our Green Schools Theme, the Committee organized a "Rubbish Display". Each class was able to see how much and what was going into our bins – a very educational activity. We must now see what we can do to further improve the situation.



On Nov 29th pupils from 5th and 6th classes participated in an Ecumenical Celebration of St. Brendan at 10.00 o'clock Mass in St. Brendan's Church. The boys did readings, prayers of faithful, dramatized the Gospel, action prayer and offertory procession and played an instrumental piece under the direction of Mr. O'Connor.

Cookstown Recycling and Offaly County Council organized a clothes collection campaign through the school. We had a fantastic response. Many thanks to all parents who contributed and the clothes will go to recycling projects in Africa to help in the relief effort.

Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Lonergan and Mr. O'Connor continue to run a very enjoyable and successful table-tennis league for the boys at lunchtime.

Dec 2nd saw the start of our Advent Ceremonies. Our crib and Jesse tree are up and we are all looking forward to Christmas. This year we bought new crib figures.

Senior Infants, First Class and Class 7 attended shows in the Oxmantown Theatre. They all had a great time with Pinocchio and Santa's Magical Adventure.

Dec 8th our school attended 10.30 am Mass in the Church for the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Dec 12th saw the official launch of the book "Sums not Sticks". This book was written by Mr. O'Connor's Class last year and published by Blackwater Press. We are very proud of all the pupils involved in the project, which highlighted the plight of child labour in India. On the night many speakers spoke in praise of the pupils. The boys themselves performed a drama based on child labour and each pupil was presented with a copy of the book. The night ended with a wonderful variety of refreshments supplied and organized by our wonderful Parents Association.

To coincide with the launch, each class studied India and child labour and produced some beautiful art work and display material and all this added to the atmosphere on the night. We were very lucky to have Sandy Lloyd speak to the pupils. She gave a very informative talk on India covering such topics as language, dress, religions, ceremonies, physical and social geography. The book "Sums not Sticks" is now available in shops locally.

In conjunction with Childline, the school is running a very successful phone recycling collection project. Many thanks to all who donated their old phones. The project is ongoing and all contributions are welcome.

Mrs. McManus organized her usual Vincent de Paul food appeal and there was, again, a great response. Many thanks to all.

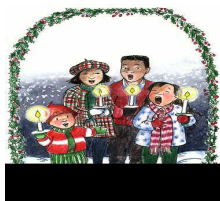


Mr. Carroll ran a very successful toy sale. The money collected went to charity.

Mrs. Sampson is running a 'Fun Table Quiz' on Wednesday 21st for both Juniors and Seniors.



Our Parents Association had a very successful bag packing fundraiser in Super Value on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th. Many thanks to all Parents, pupils and teachers who helped on the day.



Boys from 5th and 6th class took part in the Carol Service in the Church of Ireland on Sunday 18th.



Santa visited the school on Tuesday 20th courtesy of Dooley's Wedding Car.

Mrs. Sampson, Miss Doyle and Mr. Carroll and their classes are putting on Christmas plays to entertain us all as we come to the holiday.

Mr. Crofton's 6th Class has produced a Christmas Magazine with loads of stories, rhymes and competitions.

On behalf of 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 Delia, Mark, Chrissie and Mai for keeping the school running so smoothly and looking so well.

Please note holidays begin next Thursday 22nd at 12.30. School will re-open on Monday 9th Jan. Nollaigh Shona daoigh to léir ó Scoil Bhreandáin Naofa.

Michael Donegan
Principal



