



# St. Patrick's Newsletter



## Walk to School Day

Thanks to all the parents, staff and children (from K.S.1 and K.S.2) who took part in our very successful and well attended Walk To School Day on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April. It was a lovely, dry spring morning for the short walk from Supervalu (Superfare) carpark to the back entrance of our school.

We're already looking forward to the next Walk To School Day, which will take place in the summer term. Hope to see you all there! (S.Quinn – Safety Awareness coordinator)



## Goalball

Once a month, young people who suffer from visual impairments meet at the Foyle Arena to train for Goalball, one of Northern Ireland's up-and-coming disability sports. The sport features in the Paralympic Games. Goalball consists of blindfolds, balls with bells and barely any noise. Players of Goalball must wear opaque eyeshades at all times ensuring fair competition. Children from Mrs Mc Connell's class and Mrs Crumley's class enjoyed Goalball with coach Kieran Coyle. The children played the game in teams of three. The children had great fun trying to throw a ball that had bells embedded in it into their opponents' goal using ear-hand coordination. Despite its simplicity, the game proved to be deceptively difficult.



## Netball Success

Congratulations to our very successful netball team who have won all their matches in their section of the North West Primary League! The team have been training hard all year and will now take part in the North West Finals on 15<sup>th</sup> May. We wish them all good luck. Many thanks to Miss Smith who comes in early in the morning to lead the training sessions in the big hall, which no doubt has contributed to our team's success.



## Well-being App

Miss Smith's P5 class have been working with the Nerve Centre on a Pilot Programme for KS2 creating an AI (Artificial Intelligence) assistant for Wellness / Well-being. The pupils talked about the different emotions that they have, what we can do to sustain the positive emotions and how to cope with negative emotions. The pupils helped to create an app using animation with a very helpful robot called Sparky. Pupils will be launching their app within school after Easter and will be visiting classes to showcase their app.



## Times Table Rockstars

This year we launched a new initiative within the school to help pupils with their times tables. Times Tables Rockstars is a game that can be played through the school website or the TTR app. Pupils use the game to increase their speed and accuracy in their times tables. There is a Rockstars Leader board which is updated fortnightly. This shows pupils' progression and their current rock status. In the summer term we are hoping to have a Battle of the Bands competition between classes. So watch out for news of this!



### **Book Cover Competition**

To mark our World Book Day and Book Fair week the school ran the annual Book Cover Competition. This year we had lots of amazing entries which were judged by various teachers throughout each Key Stage. Our winning entries are displayed throughout the school. I'm sure you will all agree that the standard this year was extremely high and judging the entries was an extremely difficult task. In fact, teachers were so impressed that they had to award many additional 2nd and 3rd places. All winners received a book of their choice from our School Book Fair. Congratulations to all our winners whose names are listed below.

Mrs Mc Farland (Art Co-ordinator)



	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
P.1	Daniel Doherty Rm 2	Ava Green Rm 2 Elsie May Mc Laughlin Rm 2	Jenny Brolly Rm 2 Anna Smyth Rm 1
P.2	Mila Ni Tiomanaigh Rm 6	Dara Mc Cool Rm 6	Orlaith Dowds Rm 10
P.3	Emer Harkin Rm 12	Emma Doherty Rm 13 Molly Donaghy Rm 12	Eimear Cooley Rm 11 Cian Rotherham Rm 15
P.4	Mary Walsh Rm 17	Aoibheann Dufft Rm 18 Lucy Marie Maguire Rm 14	Aoibheann Herron Rm 18
P.5	Harry Moore Rm 24	Leah Mc Cleneghan Rm 24 Niamh Chester Rm 24	Eimear Barr Rm 21 Olivia Hampton Rm 21
P.6	Sarah Meenan Rm 26	Tabitha Doherty Rm 26	Cahir Mc Cool Rm 23 Emma Duddy Rm 26
P.7	Maeby Dornan Rm 29	Grace Dowds Rm 29	Shannon Mc Cartney Rm 31

### **Book Fair Success**

Our annual School Book Fair took place in the small hall during the week beginning 11th March. All our pupils received one £1 book voucher each, which was redeemable against a book of their choice. There was a fantastic response to our Book Fair this year. The Book Fair brought in an amazing sum, the commission from which Mrs Mc Connell spent wisely on classroom basics such as dictionaries and much needed novels. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Mrs Mc Connell, our classroom assistants, our school secretaries, Gillian and Eileen and all the pupils who helped out throughout the week.

**Mr Devlin (Principal)**

### **10 Ways to Become a Better Reader**

1. Read
2. Read
3. Read
4. Read
5. Read
6. Read
7. Read
8. Read
9. Read
10. Read

### Gaelic Success

Congratulations to our girls' Gaelic team who are Derry City Champions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. They represented Derry City at the All County Finals, Magherafelt, in February, reaching the final and narrowly missing out on the win by a few points. St. Patrick's are the first City School to reach the All County Final. Our girls did our school, town and city proud and we are looking forward to taking part in a few more competitions before the end of June. Many thanks must go to our school secretary and coach, Eileen, who has given the girls advice and great encouragement. Thanks also to Aoibheann Casey for helping Eileen with runs to and from the matches.



### Pupil to Paralympian!

St Patrick's is so proud of our past pupil, Amy Delaney, who did us proud in the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games, which were held in Abu Dhabi in March. Amy struck gold in the ten-pin bowling singles event before winning a silver medal in the doubles event alongside her team mate, Rosarie Mc Carthy. We were so privileged to have had a visit from our famous past pupil whom we all remember fondly. Sixteen year old Amy is now a pupil of Ardnashee School. We would like to wish Amy and her teammates lots of luck in future competitions. Well done Amy from everyone at St Patrick's.

### Féis Doire Cholmcille

We have eighty six entries to Féis Doire Cholmcille from St.Patrick's this year. Children from P.1 to P.6 will compete in Verse Speaking, Bible Study and Studied Prose competitions during the Easter holidays. They have all been practising hard and we wish them all the very best of luck for their competitions.

Mrs Wood (Drama Coordinator)

### Jazz Workshop by Maya Goldblum and Jack Kelly

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April, our P.6 pupils were treated to an amazing Jazz workshop led by jazz duo Maya Goldblum and Jack Kelly. Maya Goldblum is a young singer songwriter from Sandpoint, Idaho who has been living and playing music in Derry for the past two years. Jack Kelly is bass player. The aim of the workshop was to introduce the children to jazz with a view to encouraging the children to attend live events during Derry's Jazz Festival. Seeing the live performance by the duo was incredible. Maya and Jack talked to the children about the art form and about improvisation as the children sat cross- legged in the small hall in our school. Check out the video clip on the P.6 area. What a nice way to spend the afternoon!





### Foyle Film Festival

Our P.7 pupils attended Foyle Film Festival in March. The aim of this diverse programme is to broaden children's and young people's cultural awareness and promote tolerance across the board. Our pupils had a lovely morning out, whilst at the same time learning about tolerance and respect. These themes were also expanded upon within school.



### SciFest NW

Our P.7 pupils attended SciFest NW, which was hosted by St Mary's School in Derry. SciFest aims to give students of all abilities and backgrounds the opportunity to develop, research, problem solve, think critically and present their ideas. Children from primary and post primary schools put their skills in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) to the test in problem based learning. Our pupils had great fun programming ICT software to make their robots move.

We hope that by engaging our pupils in the programme it will drive interest in STEM subjects as our P.7 pupils move on to post primary schools.

### Budding Actress in Our Midst

Look out for none other than our own Jaida Joseph from P.7 on T.V. 'Saturday Club' features the adventures of four young kids and their wise old grandad. Jaida is to star in the new cartoon which is voiced by four young local actors. Jaida plays Suzy and she is really excited about the show going live. Jaida really likes her character Suzy as she says Suzy is like herself as she is 'energetic and can defend herself'. Ten year old Jaida was chosen for the part, despite having no previous acting experience. She now has aspirations to become an actress! We wish Jaida very good luck with her ambitions.



### The Religious Life of our School

Catholic Schools Week was launched in St Eugene's Cathedral on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The theme this year was 'Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools' and reflecting on the unique contribution of Catholic schools to our collective goal in promoting an ethos that is inclusive, welcoming and vibrant. The mass was celebrated by Monsignor Dolan. Mr Devlin attended the Mass with our pupil representatives: Nattaya Brady P7, Joseph Mc Glinchey P7, Kevin Bradley P4 and Katie Leigh Rodgers P4. In addition, our P.7 pupils celebrated the Mass of Commitment on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Mrs Comey (R.E Co-ordinator)



### Confirmation

Our P7 Pupils received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 4.00pm in St Patrick's Church. The Sacrament of Confirmation was administered by Bishop Mc Keown. We would like to thank Miss Cullen for all her hard work in preparing the school choir for this occasion. We would also like to thank Mrs Callan and Mrs Boyle for the beautiful display in the chapel, the P.7 teachers for their dedication and support in preparing the P.7 pupils for the receiving of this Sacrament, Mrs. Comey for preparing the readers and gift bearers and Mrs. Mc Connellogue for her organisation of the ceremony itself. Finally we would like to thank our canteen staff for providing the lovely refreshments in the school afterwards.

Mr Devlin (Principal)



### Lenten Preparation

We have been hard at work preparing our pupils for the most important day in the Catholic liturgical calendar, Easter Sunday. Our pupils received their ashes after a short ceremony in our school hall on Ash Wednesday. Thank you to Fr Mc Caughey, Kathryn Ellis, Mrs Mc Connellogue, Mrs Mc Sheffrey and Mrs Callan for assisting with this. Fr Mc Caughey also brought a team of priests to the school twice recently for confessions, in preparation for Lent and again in preparation for Easter. Many thanks to Fr Mc Caughey for his continued support. Mrs Comey (R.E)



### Reconciliation and Holy Communion

Our primary four children received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March in St Patrick's Church. Many thanks to all our P.4 teachers who worked so hard in preparing the children for this Sacrament. The primary four children are working very hard preparing for their First Holy Communion. They also continue to be involved in the 'Do this in memory of me' programme.

### PDMU

St. Patrick's Primary School is launching an exciting new home/school programme called 'Families Connect'. This programme is designed to celebrate the contribution of parents in their child's education. 'Families Connect' focuses on supporting parents and children to learn together. It is a games based eight-week programme. We are really looking forward to its launch at our Coffee Morning on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April. Further information will be provided at a later date.

Mrs Comey (PDMU Co-ordinator)



## Charities



We raised an amazing £700 for Guide Dogs N.I. through our No Homework Day! Included in the picture are Caislin (P.7), Freya Coyle (P.5) and Emma Loughed (Guide Dogs N.I.). We would also like to thank Andrea O' Hagan and her amazing guide dog, Becky.

Through our Non Uniform Day, we also raised a fabulous £570 to support the N.S.P.C.C. Included in the photograph are members of our super School Council, Mrs Mc Sheffrey and Christine Mc Elroy from the NSPCC.

## Breaking News... Easter Hop a Big Success!!

Our school raised an unbelievable **£3,228** for Trocaire this year!!! Thank you so much for your generosity! A special thank you goes to my fantastic class. They hopped their little cotton socks off to make our sponsored disco so enjoyable! Pictured are the children simulating an Irish wedding flashback (AKA 'Derry Girls') doing 'Rock the Boat'.

