

THE ARTS

~MUSIC~

SCHOOL CHOIR & BAND

The school Choir and Band are in full swing in our second term of school. The school choir is currently preparing for the First Holy Communion Mass. The school band are busy preparing for a school performance during Seachtain na Gaeilge.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The lunch time Football League is going well. Mr. O' Regan, Mr. Desmond, Mr. McDonnell, Mr. Spain and Mr. Carney alternate the training sessions and they have commented on how well the children are progressing with their football skills and techniques.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We are having a busy second term in school with all the extra curricular activities back up and running. Such activities include basketball, tin whistle and football. Hurling and Camogie is also expected to be up and running after the Mid-Term Break. Ms. McDonnell is now training the girls after school on Wednesdays. The girls will soon play a match against Croghan and this promises to be a very enjoyable day.

CHALLENGE MATCH

Scoil Bhríde PS played Croghan in a lunch time challenge match during the first week of February. The match was played in the Astroturf in Croghan. All team players were given an opportunity to play during the match and a great day was had by all.

ICT

Thanks to the school's ICT Co-ordinator Mr. O'Regan, each classroom that has an interactive whiteboard now has access to *Skype*. This will enable contact with other classes in the school which will be both beneficial and effective when doing projects and it will also provide us with an opportunity to make contact with other school going children nationally and even internationally. Some of the teachers at Scoil Bhríde are setting up class blogs so keep an eye out on www.scoilbhrideps.com for updates on these.

ADRIAN BRERETON VISIT

Scoil Bhríde PS would like to commend popular local figure, Mr. Adrian Brereton, on his effort and determination in one of the nations most talked about programmes, *Operation Transformation*. Scoil Bhríde PS has nominated Mr. Brereton for the school's *Community Recognition Award 2012* to celebrate his achievements and to recognise his efforts on a journey that is made easier with the support of others. Mr. Brereton has undoubtedly motivated and inspired the entire Edenderry community and indeed many more. Mr. Brereton was presented with a crystal plaque and visual presentation on February 9th for his outstanding achievements. Mr. Brereton gave the children in 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class a talk on the importance of healthy eating which links in with the Social, Personal and Health Education programme which is implemented in the school. He also stressed the importance of exercise which is incorporated in the children's PE curriculum. Mr. Brereton also spoke about how his life has transformed since he began his journey with *Operation Transformation*.

HEINEKEN CUP VISIT

Scoil Bhríde PS was visited by the Heineken Cup winners on Thursday, the 19th of January. The trophy was accompanied on its journey by Patsy Gorman.

The visit of the Heineken Cup has definitely left its mark in the town and the excitement it has created was evident to those privileged enough to get to see the world famous trophy.

SCOIL BHRÍDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Carrick Road, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

A warm welcome to all to the spring edition of our Parents' Newsletter. We have had a very busy beginning to the second term of this school year. Our annual Grandparents' Day was once again a great success and I would like to extend my appreciation to all grandparents who came to Scoil Bhríde PS on the day. The responses on the grandparents' questionnaires provided us with some really interesting information and facts about school days in times gone by. Congratulations to Mr. O'Regan and Mr. Spain and all the boys who proudly represented Scoil Bhríde PS on the football field in Croghan recently. Best wishes To Ms. McDonnell and the girls' football team who will make their debut shortly. Friendship Week in Scoil Bhríde PS was also a very positive experience for all and helped foster co-operation, trust and respect for all. The staff and pupils at Scoil Bhríde PS were delighted to present our inaugural 'Community Recognition Award' to Mr. Adrian Brereton and the arrival of the RTE 'Operation Transformation' cameras certainly caused major excitement in school last week. Finally, I would like to wish all our pupils and parents a very enjoyable mid-term break.

Beir Bua agus Beannacht,

caoinhín Ó Dufaigh (Príomh Oide)

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NOTES FOR PARENTS

OUTSTANDING FEES

Mr. Duffy has noted from the financial accounts that there are still a number of parents who have yet to pay for Art & Photocopying, Book Rental, Standardised Tests, School Diaries, etc. As you are aware, our school operates a payment plan option for parents who wish to use this facility. If you are not in a position to finalise and clear your school accounts, please speak with your child's class teacher to arrange a specific payment plan. In any event, Mr. Duffy will be making personal contact next week with all parents who have outstanding accounts.

REMINDER

Parents are reminded that they must:
Sign the 'Late Attendance Register' if their children arrive to school later than 9.15 am.
Sign the 'Early Withdrawal Register' if their children leave before 1.30pm (infant classes) or 2.30pm. (1st to 6th classes)

HEALTH & SAFETY

In the interest of Health and Safety, we ask that parents do not: -
Smoke on school grounds
Bring pets on to the school grounds

SUPERVISION

The school provides over and above the required levels of supervision for pupils playing on the yard during morning break and lunch time. The Board of Management is not in the position to provide supervision to pupils who wish to remain indoors during break time and lunch times. Therefore, if your child is unwell and is unable to participate in normal school activities, then he/she should remain at home.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Mrs. Farrell co-ordinates the recycling of school uniforms at Scoil Bhríde PS. If you would like to avail of this confidential service or if you have unwanted uniforms that are in very good condition, please contact Mrs. Farrell at the school.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

On February 11th 2012, The Parents' Association of Scoil Bhríde PS held a Race Night in Byrne's Pub, Edenderry to raise funds for the school. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parents' Association for their continuous support and to thank all of those who attended.

WRITE A BOOK COMPETITION

All classes are going to enter the 'Write-A-Book' Competition. This is an exciting competition where children can let their creative juices flow and create their own short stories or poems. This is a great competition to encourage a love of reading and writing. The winning books will be announced in March 2012. Best of luck to all our authors at Scoil Bhríde PS!

ERICSSON SCIENCE COMPETITION

The children in Mr. Spain's Third Class and Ms. Hannon's Third Class are taking part in a new Science Competition sponsored by Ericsson. Both classes are working on a project based on the conservation of water. Through class project work and learning, the competition aims to provide students with an insight into the excitement of science and maths in today's world.

INTO HANDWRITING COMPETITION

This year Scoil Bhríde PS wishes to enter the annual 20th INTO Handwriting Competition. This competition gives schools a chance to encourage a creative awareness among children of the importance of handwriting skills, especially in a time that is so technologically advanced. Best of luck to all the pupils who enter this wonderful competition.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK

Catholic Schools Week was from January 30th to February 5th and the theme for the week was "Catholic Schools: Christ's body active in our world." Scoil Bhríde's Religion Co-ordinator, Ms. Hannon suggested different ways of celebrating Catholic Schools' Week and this included having a Sacred Space at the Reception area, having a sacred space in the classroom and creating St. Brigid's Day crosses among some. Father McEvoy also called into the classrooms to bless the crosses. As part of Catholic School's Week, First Class had their grandparents in for Grandparents' Day on February 1st. Please see the website for pictures taken on the day.

FRIENDSHIP WEEK

Friendship Week was from the 6th to the 10th of February. Taking part in Friendship Week helped raise an awareness of justice, morality and friendship. By selling friendship bracelets, we showed solidarity to others. All funds are in aid of Amnesty Ireland.

WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day is the 1st of March and we are looking forward to celebrating this wonderful day. The children will dress up as their favourite characters from a story that they like. There will also be various activities taking place in the school to acknowledge such an important day. Some activities include visiting the local library, a musical performance in the hall and drama performances within the classroom.
