



*Parteen National School
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School Community Newsletter 21/4/16

School Building

We are moving into the new building on Monday, 25/4/2016. Thank you to all the staff of Conor Kelly Construction for their work, I would like to complement them on their professional approach and helpfulness around the school. We will have an official opening at a later date.

Maths

There are a number of documents in the Newsletter Section of the website explaining how to learn tables and how to complete addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The language used has changed over the years and this is a useful guide for parents. Thank you to Ms. Quinlan for coordinating this.

Fashion Show

The fashion show promises to be a great night in the Strand Hotel. Money raised will go towards the astro-turf pitch which will benefit all children in the school. We are asking each family to purchase or sell two tickets. There will be over 70 items for the raffle and for spot prizes on the night.

Uniform

As you are aware, we are moving over to Fennessy's to supply our P.E. top. Due to ordering issues, Limerick Sports Store will continue to supply them this year and Fennessy's will take over next year.

It is important that all students comply with the uniform policy for the full school year. It is unfair on families who are complying if another child arrives in with a branded tracksuit bottom or t-shirt.

1916 Celebrations

We are having a 1916 themed day on Wednesday, April 27th. Ms. Ryan has organised for a vintage car to come to the school. There will be an Infant Assembly where they will have a birthday party for Ireland and play Irish based games. 1st-2nd will also have a birthday party for Ireland and two children from 6th class will explain to them what happened during 1916. 3rd-6th will have another assembly where they will hear about changes between 1916 and now and each class will make a presentation on one of the seven signatories of the proclamation. There will be a range of 1916 themed activities going on in all classes. Children can dress up as a child would have in 1916, or wear green.

Choir

Well done to the choir who recently sang in the University Of Limerick Concert Hall with the Three Tenors. This was a fantastic experience and a great honour. Thank you to Ms. O' Keefe and Ms. Parkinson for preparing the children and to Ms. Parkinson for conducting on the night. We wish them the best of luck on Thursday, April 28th in the Navan Choral Competition.

Rugby

The rugby season has finished on a high for the 5th and 6th class boys and girls!

On Tuesday 5th April three teams of boys competed in a blitz tournament organised by Munster Rugby in LIT. The boys played a series of games against other teams from Scoil Íde, JFK NS and Caherdavin Boys' NS. One of the Parteen teams, captained by Mark Ormston, won out (beating JFK NS in the final) and retained the trophy won at last year's tournament. The boys who played on the victorious team have since been taking turns to bring this coveted silverware home to show their families. A number of our new players gave outstanding performances in this blitz and several were amongst the try scorers.

A few weeks before the boys' tournament the girls partook in a Munster Rugby blitz at Thomond RFC's pitch in Moylish. Three teams were entered and a number of very competitive games were played against Corpus Christi NS, Thomond NS and St. Brigid's NS. Most were newcomers and grew in confidence and ability as the tournament progressed. One of the Parteen teams won out the tournament beating Corpus Christi NS in the final.

Well done to all who have donned boots, muddy jerseys and gum shields for the school rugby teams this year and huge congratulations to the two victorious teams. Finally, a big thank you to Kenneth McNamara of Munster Rugby and the teachers who have trained the children after school; Ms. Curtin, Ms. O'Dwyer, Ms. Gleeson, Ms. Finnegan, Ms. Neylon, Mr. Hickey and Mr. Crowe.

Colours Day

The last Colours Day raised €504 for the astro turf pitch.

Attendance

February: Boys 95.3% Girls 94.1%

March Boys 93.3% Girls 95.2%

Ranger Visit

Thank you to David Lyons, our local ranger from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, who gave a workshop on local wildlife to 4th and 5th classes.

Clare County Stars

Dean Ryan and Podge Collins, both from AIB, and both inter county stars with Clare hurling & football panels, visited 6th class on Monday, April 18th.

The children had been doing the "future me" programme for the last number of weeks. This is an introduction to banking, lending, budgeting, saving and foreign currencies. They all really enjoyed doing this programme, and all learned something new with regards to the various aspects of banking.

Dean & Podge returned to present the children with their certificates of completion. While they were visiting the classes, the children got the opportunity to do some football skills with Dean. They did some hand passing and kicking drills, and learned some new techniques when kicking the ball. Both classes also had the opportunity to listen to both players as they gave a detailed insight into their sporting lives. They discussed the importance of a healthy balanced diet, that is achievable and yet attainable. Both players also spoke about the importance of sport in our lives, in order to help us to keep fit & healthy, but to also work as part of a team, making friends and learning how to win and lose. They answered any questions the children had, with regards to matches, sport and balancing their work and sport balance. Thanks to Dean & Podge for taking the time out of their busy schedules. It was a real privilege to have them.

Scratch

In February the school Scratch clubs for 5th and 6th classes concluded for this school year. We were delighted to learn very recently that one of the projects submitted for the national competition from Parteen NS has been selected for the ICS Scratch National Finals to be held at the RDS in Dublin on April 27th. Huge congratulations to Clodagh McMahon from 6th class for her project entitled "Cookies".

5-A-side Soccer

On Wednesday April 13th we sent a squad of 8 players to Lees Road Sports Complex in Ennis for the FAI Spar 5-a-side schools challenge. The boys acquitted themselves extremely well and narrowly missed out on progressing to the knock-out stages. Well done Adam, Arthur, Cael, Cian N, Cian O'H, Daniel, Dara and Marcus. Thank you to Mr. Collins and Mr. Hickey for training the children and taking them to Ennis.



Unexplained absences

There are a number of children whose absences are unexplained. Class teachers will be sending out notes about these to have them explained. Please fill in the template and return it to the class teacher.

Hockey

Ms. Ryan and Ms. O' Donovan organised a hockey blitz on 15/4/16 between six schools on the grounds of the Catholic Institute. This was a huge undertaking and a great day was had by all. Thank you too to Ms. Guckian who helped out on the day.

G.A.A.

Hurling and Camogie training has started up on Thursdays after school in Parteen G.A.A. Thank you to Ms. O' Keefe, Mr. Collins, Mr. Hickey, Mr. Crowe, Ms. Guckian, Ms. O' Dwyer, Ms. Neylon, Mr. Crowe and Ms. Gleeson for their time and commitment.

Great Limerick Run

The great Limerick Run will take place on May 1st. If you are attending, please mention you are in Parteen National School as the school will get €5 for every entrant. Money will go towards the astro-turf pitch fund.

Energy Monitoring

Thank you to Martin Hogan for registering the school and completing an energy audit as part of the requirements from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.

Singing Lessons

Since beginning singing lessons students have practiced a variety of breathing and vocal exercises to support and develop their singing technique as well as studying music theory. Pupils have studied and practiced a number of songs and pieces for performance. These include traditional songs such as "All Things Bright and Beautiful", "Grüss" by Felix Mendelssohn and "My Father's Garden" (a French traditional song). In lessons we have particularly enjoyed studying songs from shows and musicals including Cinderella, The Sound of Music, Oliver!, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and Les Misérables. At the moment students are preparing for the Royal Irish Academy of Music singing exams which will take place in May. As part of the exam they will perform three songs with an accompanist, complete a number of vocal exercises and aural tests and discuss music theory with the examiner. "Oh, Susanna", "Li'l Liza Jane", "Doll on a Music Box" and "Thumbelina" are just some of the songs that will be performed for the examinations. Ms. Sheahan is extremely happy with all of her singing students. It has been a pleasure to teach all students involved

and see them develop as musicians this year – they have become confident singers and have worked hard at all of the tasks given to them. The best of luck to all singing students participating in exams in May - remember to enjoy the experience of performing! Singing lessons take place after school for one hour each Monday and Thursday with Ms. Sheahan.

Spanish

Spanish club continue to meet Thursday afternoons. French Club are meeting on Mondays. They are enjoying learning about the French and Spanish language and culture. They are looking forward to the Spanish and French breakfast in June!

School Band

The Trad Band will continue to meet Monday afternoons. Our band members play a variety of instruments including tin whistles, violin and guitar. We have already mastered Óró sé do Bheatha 'bhaille and Oh Susanna. Our first performance will take place during the 1916 Celebrations, Wednesday April 27th. Ms. O'Kelly and Ms. Neylon would love to hear from anyone who is interested in joining the band. We are always looking for new members.

1916

Jack from 3rd, Laura from 4th, Ruby from 5th and Joey from 6th recently travelled to Dublin to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. We were one of four schools in the country who were invited up to help design a playground that will be built in Dublin to commemorate the children who died in 1916.

Community Games

Parteen / St. Nicholas Community Games athletics day will take place on U.L. Running Track on Sunday, April 24th at 2pm. Age limits: U8-ov 6), U10, U12, U14 and U16 before July 31st, 2016. Track and field events, long jump, shot putt and puck fada. Entry fee €2 per event.

Rounders training is taking place Tuesday after school from 3-4 in Parteen GAA pitch. A boys and a girls team will be entered in the community games this year. Teams are being coached by Ms O' Donovan and Ms Curtin

Fire Brigade

Thank you to Killaloe Fire Station who visited recently and completed a workshop on fire safety with 3rd and 4th class.

Staffing

We welcome back Ms. Collins and thank Ms. Finnegan for her work in the school. We welcome students from Mary Immaculate College who will be completing placements in 6th, 5th and Ms. O' Dwyer's Junior Infants for three weeks starting next Monday.

Kind regards,

Gerard Ruane

Mairéad Guckian