

Visitors to the School

- John Malone visited the school on **Oct. 2nd** and gave a **cycle awareness** course to 4th classes. It was excellent and the children loved it. We could have made the Guinness Book of Records for the number of bikes in school that day!
- Lt. Emma Harney came to St. Conleth & Mary's on **Oct. 7th** to present the school with our **Tricolour** in preparation for the 1916 Centenary next year. She gave the children a lovely talk on our national flag and the protocols which should be observed to show it due respect, before presenting the flag to Dylan O'Rourke and Emma Byrne. Fionn and Luke Brennan and Sive and Niamh Armour entertained us with beautiful Irish dancing, while Sophie Quinlivan Nolan helped Lt. Harney read the Proclamation. The ceremony concluded with the entire school standing to sing Amhrán na bhFiann. The children all showed a great sense of occasion and Lt. Harney complimented them on their excellent behaviour.
- Kildare County Council Road Safety Officer, Declan Keogh, was in the school on **Oct. 8th** and spoke to 4th, 5th and 6th classes about keeping safe on the road. He paid particular attention to the correct use of our new school crossing and reminded the children only to cross when they saw the green man and when they were sure all oncoming traffic had stopped.
- 3rd classes are enjoying weekly music lessons with visiting teacher **Don Nea** and some very talented singers, dancers and guitarists have been discovered. We look forward to their end-of-course performance.
- Our Transition Year Students have been busy drawing up questions and conducting a Table Quiz for 5th classes. Great fun was had by all our junior masterminds!

In other news.....

- 2nd class, Rm. 15, have been enjoying 'Show and Tell'. Some interesting items, including Cara's WW2 helmet, were brought in.
- 6th class, Rm. 1, have been enjoying a **weekly cookery class** where they are learning to produce simple, nutritious dishes.
- Rm. 1 also did great project work on the **Rugby World Cup**.
- 6th classes have been **researching the Celts** and presenting their projects.
- Rm. 5, 6th class, did additional project work on **Festivals around the World** and have been writing and illustrating **Hallowe'en stories** to read to 2nd class before mid-term.
- Our current **Writing Genre** in English is **Recounts**, with several classes using the Presentation of the Tricolour as their theme. A range of work is displayed on the English Writing Board along the corridor for all to read and enjoy.
- A number of classes have been performing at our **weekly assemblies** with acts such as 'An Tornapa Mór' (Rm. 20), The Haka (Rm. 4), an dán 'An Fómhar' agus an t-amhrán 'Beidh Aonach Amárach' (Rm. 6) being enjoyed by all.
- Thursday has been designated **Lá na Gaeilge**, with pupils and teachers trying to use their 'cúpla focal' as much as possible. 5th class, Rm. 7, are having a Maidin Caife before midterm to promote the language.
- Fabulous **Hallowe'en art** is on display in the foyer and throughout the school, ranging from collages to skeletons to spooky silhouettes. Picasso gets a look-in in Rm. 13 while Tribal Art is the inspiration in Rm. 20. Check out the school website for photos of the children's work.



Dear Parents,

As this is the first newsletter of the new school year I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all well for the coming year. By now we have all settled back into the routine of school and hopefully it will be a successful and productive year. I would like to welcome all our new pupils in second class and all newcomers to other classes in the school. I hope you will enjoy success and happiness during your time in St. Conleth & Mary's. Welcome back, also, to all the staff and a warm welcome to Mr. O Sullivan and Ms. Gill, 6th class teachers and Ms Nugent, Resource Teacher who have joined us this year. I believe that we have made a good start to 2015/2016. Our attendance rate for the month of September was 96.6%. The vast majority of our pupils are working hard, are keen to do their best, wearing the correct uniform / tracksuit and are abiding by the rules. We greatly appreciate the co-operation and support from parents in relation to homework, schoolwork and uniform.

It is very important that children are in school on time but it is also important that children do not arrive in school too early. **There is no supervision on the yard in the morning before 9.00am.**

I would like to wish the Parents Association all the best for the coming year and to thank them for their hard work on behalf of the school and for their support. The cook book will be on sale shortly, it is full of delicious ideas and recipes supplied by the parents and pupils of the school and will also contain some celebrity recipes. All the illustrations used to decorate the book were drawn by the pupils. We are hoping that it will be a major fund-raising success for the school and all proceeds raised will go towards the development of IT and will benefit all our pupils. A huge amount of work was undertaken by the parents over the past few months to prepare the book for publication and I would like to sincerely thank all who helped in the venture.

Finally, as the term of office for the current Board of Management comes to an end I would like to thank all the Board members for their work and commitment throughout the past four years. The work of the Board is for the most part carried on behind the scenes but it is vitally important to the successful running of a school.

Hopefully, we will see you all at the Parent/Teacher meetings in November, the dates and times will be issued to you after the mid-term.

I hope you all have a good mid-term break agus ná déanaigí dearmad..... 'Tugaigí aire Oíche Shamhna!' **Sheila O'Neill.**

Guess the Score

Thanks to all who supported our annual Guess the Score competition. The response was wonderful and all money raised this year is being used to subsidise the buses to Naas for swimming. Marta Grobarczut and Maria Hayden, our two winners, each received a cheque for €100.

School Library

Many thanks to all who contributed books to the school library. All have been catalogued and covered and the library will reopen after mid-term.

Sporting News

- Thanks to all the U-11 Boys for their hard work and to their parents for their support and help. Despite three very close games, this was not our year and we didn't reach the knockout stages. The boys gave it their all though and great credit is due to them for their courage and commitment.
- Swimming in K Leisure, Naas, is ongoing each Monday and Friday, and Rms. 4, 6, 7 & 8 have so far completed their course of 5 lessons.
- Gymnastics with Aisling are also ongoing on Mondays, and Rms. 15,16, 17, 3,20 & 21 have completed their six sessions.
- 5th classes have been enjoying Unihoc training with Aimee McGrath, one of our Transition Year students.
- Boys' basketball training is happening on Wednesdays from 3.00-3.45p.m.

Out and About

- **Thurs. Oct. 1st** was the Open Day in St. Conleth's Community College and 5th classes were invited to attend. They were very impressed with all they saw and especially enjoyed the lovely home baking!
- On **Oct. 8th**, 5th classes went to Newbridge Library for a very entertaining talk by author Jackie Burke, who gave them lots of useful tips about the writing process.
- To mark **Tree Day** on Oct. 8th, 5th class, Rm. 7, went on a Nature Walk to the Liffey Linear Park and are hoping to plant acorns before midterm.
- On **14th Oct.**, as part of the Children's Book Festival, 2nd class, Rm. 16, visited the library to take part in a workshop based on Scottish traditional music, presented by the poet Fred Freeman.
- 5th and 6th classes were thrilled to attend the Holy Family/PBS Musical, Little Shop of Horrors on **Oct. 20th** and thoroughly enjoyed the excellent performance. It was great to see many of our talented past pupils taking part.

Maths News

- Children from 4th, 5th and 6th classes completed symmetrical butterflies which are displayed on our 'Maths in Nature' board.
- To mark Maths Week, many classes played Maths games and took part in Maths Trails around the school and grounds.

Mass and Sacramental Preparation

- On Sept.29th our new school chaplain, Fr. David Barrins, celebrated a Mass to mark the opening of the school year. As usual the children sang and responded beautifully.
- On Sunday, Oct. 18th, there was an Enrolment Mass for Confirmation which our 6th class pupils and their families attended.

The School Garden

Bernard has been very busy doing essential maintenance work on the school garden and it is now good to go. Rm. 16 pupils, 2nd class, are hoping to begin some winter planting shortly.