

e-nuachtlitir



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Easter greetings



Is iad na lusanna an chrom-chinn na comharthaí Ear-raigh is speisialta sa scoil bliain ar bhliain. Bíonn gach duine ag súil leo, agus bhí siad go hálainn ag an ngeata tosaigh i Mí Márta. Tá súil agam g bhfaca sibh iad!

As we look forward to the Easter holiday, I hope that you enjoy reading about some of the projects that have been going on in our school, as well as an update on general items of interest... See inside for details...

A special note of thanks to our PTA committee, whose members have worked tirelessly on a most comprehensive programme of activities for their term of office. Please note the *dates for your diary* below; see pages 8-10; and continue to watch out for notices and flyers! All of events involve a lot of planning and input - so please come along to some, if not all!

Le gach dea ghuí,

Eileen Jackson
Principal

April 2011

Volume 1 Issue 2

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Dátaí don dialann



15 April	12.00	school closes - EASTER HOLIDAYS
	20.30	Pub Quiz [PTA] (<i>Beach House</i>)
3 May	08.25	school reopens - SUMMER TERM begins swimming lessons series begins [I & II Classes]
5 May		Principal attends Patron's Day (hosted by new Archbishop of Dublin)
9 May	14.30	SDP meeting [teachers]
11 May	09.30	CHURCH ASSEMBLY [III & IV Classes] (St Patrick's Church) PHOTOGRAPHER - annual school visit
13 May	09.30	Junior Infants vaccinations [(GP hall)]
20 May		Fun Day! (school grounds) * POSTPONED to Term 3
	18.00	Golf Mini Classic (NOTE change of date)
23 - 27 May		Turas Gaeltachta [Rang a Cúig] (Dún na nGall)
24 - 26 May		Outdoor Education & Adventure [Sixth Class] (Galway)
30 May	14.30	SDP meeting [teachers]
3 June		school closes at NORMAL TIMES - long weekend
7 June	08.25	school reopens
13 June	14.30	SDP meeting [teachers]
17 June		Fun Day! (school grounds)
30 June	12.00	school closes - SUMMER HOLIDAYS
31 August	08.25	school reopens - NEW SCHOOL YEAR begins

School Strategic planning to 2016



THAT WAS THEN...

It is now almost FOUR years since we celebrated the opening of our beautifully redeveloped school - how time flies! For those who joined the school since this major programme was completed in 2006/07, the following is a brief outline of the work undertaken. A new wing was constructed, completing the fourth side of a quadrangle, to include two classrooms (now Junior and Senior Infants' rooms); a resource/medical room (now referred to as the 'quiet room'); secretary's and principal's offices; a staff room; and a general purpose hall with adjoining kitchen and storage facility. Significant work was done to the existing building and facilities (with improved insulation, heating, lighting, windows, carpeting, blinds, & toilet/cloakroom refurbishment).

The funding from the DES covered many, but not all, of the features that we (BOM, parents and staff) wished to include in the school's overall development plan, recognising this to be an exceptional opportunity to develop the school's facilities to the highest standards possible. As well as fulfilling our responsibilities with the DES for basic fit-out costs, we undertook the planning, funding and implementation of a huge project to improve the school's resources. A 'special projects committee' was established (made up of Board, parent and staff representatives), a loan facility for €200,000 was arranged and work commenced, focusing on

- ICT (a computer room & 2 computers per classroom, printers, networking, & interactive whiteboards in all classrooms);
- a new library with fully computerised lending facilities;
- SET facilities (3 special education needs classrooms with a shared resource area);
- PE, drama and music resources in the new GP hall (incl stage, sound and lighting);
- playground development (including improved classroom security).

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The project was generously supported by the school and wider community from the very beginning, and over the past 4 years we have seen fit-out and equipment totalling over €230,000, with our loan reduced to a manageable €40,368. This is a testament to the strong and supportive community that we have at St Patrick's, and it is something of which all involved should be very proud - from the initial generous commitments of individual parents to the tireless work of successive PTA committees whose programme of fundraising activities has chipped away at the loan with such success.

Though times and circumstances have changed more than we could ever have envisaged, and the challenge of fundraising is ever more daunting, we now find ourselves with the clearing of the loan in sight, and we can look forward to developing the ever-necessary 'sinking fund' as we set in place our plans for the coming years...

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

While the targets associated with the development programme were achieved, many others issues of importance to the school and its pupils were also addressed on an ongoing basis - including staffing; enrolment; health, safety and welfare matters; curriculum implementation and development; special educational needs; SDP; home/school links; and others.

It is now time to work on the development of our school strategy for the next 5 years (to 2016). To that end, work will begin on the development of *School Strategic Plan (2011 - 2016)* in Term 3. The success of this process depends on input from all partners within the school community, and everybody will have an opportunity to make a contribution - Board of Management, staff, parents and pupils. I look forward to working on this task with you all over the coming months.

E Jackson (Principal)

School calendar 2010/2011



	<i>school closes</i>	<i>school reopens at 08.25</i>
Easter holidays 	Fri 15 April 2011*	Tues 3 May 2011
long weekend	Fri 3 June 2011	Tues 7 June 2011
summer holidays 2011 	Thur 30 June 2011*	Wed 31 August 2011

School development planning (SDP) meetings in Term 3 will be held out of school hours

The school will close at 12.00 on the dates marked *.

Standardised school year - information for 2011-2012



A standardised school year was introduced by the Department of Education and Science (now Department of Education and Skills) in 2004. It **related to the standardisation of the breaks for all schools at Christmas, Easter and mid-term in the first and second terms for the school year.** The current agreement expires at the end of June 2011, and we await confirmation of arrangements for the full academic year 2011/2012, and beyond.

In advance of that announcement, a limited number of dates have been finalised by the Department of Education and Skills. They are:

Term 1 (September - December 2011)

mid-term break: All schools will close from Monday 31/10/11 to Friday 04/11/11 inclusive.

Christmas 2011: All schools will close on Thursday 22/12/11 (this will be the final day of term), and will re-open on Monday 09/01/12.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (SDP)



This year, revised arrangements were made for teachers' in-school planning in all schools. Our Board of Management agreed the following schedule for this academic year.



- ~ monthly SDP meetings
- ~ parent/teacher meetings
- ~ curriculum development in-service training (CPD)
- ~ end-of-year (EOY) review and planning meetings
- ~ start-of-year (SOY) planning meetings.

All such meetings are held outside teaching time, in order to ensure no disruption to the children's educational programme. Here at St Patrick's, we have held our staff monthly review and planning meetings outside school hours for many years and we have now extended these meetings to include other aspects of planning.

Of course, ongoing consultations with parents, visiting professionals, etc will continue to be scheduled for mutually convenient times, as always. If parents have any queries, they should contact the Principal.



HOCKEY



Boys 4th – 6th Class “We are already looking forward to next season!” – Joy Maher



30 boys participated in hockey on Fridays in Loreto Bray this year. This continues to be well attended and proves to be very popular. This season we were extremely fortunate to have senior coach, Gordon Watson, come on board our coaching panel. Gordon is very experienced at coaching at all levels and is a very proactive and energetic coach. His main objective is for each boy to reach their maximum potential in both stick work and positional play, whilst still maintaining their enjoyment of this great team sport. Once again the Leinster League proved to be very competitive, but as the league progressed so did our confidence.

Girls 4th – 6th Class “What a great season by both Girls teams.” - Elaine Sutton

The league team's first match set the tone for the season with a great win over Aravon on a very wet and windy day way back in November. This set them up for a great first league match v Loreto Dalkey winning 5 - 1 on one of the coldest days I have ever stood on the side of a hockey pitch.

We didn't play our next league game till late January due to weather and what a match! We were 3 - 0 down after 10 minutes, but came back to 3 - 3 before half time only to lose out 6 - 4 at the final whistle. This team went on to win the Division 5 League. The girls worked so hard and proved to themselves never to give up.

3 more league matches v Rathdown Draw 0-0, v Carysfort won 5-3.....then the semi final in UCD v Kildare Place School. We lost 3-2 after a super game with the girls playing their hearts out. Tears flowed at final whistle from all on pitch and side line. What a great season and the 6th class girls will only go on to bigger and better hockey achievements in Secondary school.

What can only be said about the 2nd team is, "Look out everybody next year". After a great start back in November with victories over Castlepark for the 1st time in 2 years, they have grown in strength and determination. Friendly matches in 2011 v St Laurence's and St Patrick's Bray gave whole new meaning to the word "Friendly". These girls are determined to win everything and I can't wait for the start of next season.

3rd Class Hockey “An enthusiastic group, showing great skill very early on.” - Debbie Jones



It's was great to start 3rd class hockey in September this year. We planned to do one afternoon from 2pm to 3pm but the third class boys and girls were very keen and soon we had Mondays and Thursdays up and running. On the 7th April we played a mini tournament against St. Andrew's in Bray. There was great excitement and everyone got to play the three short matches. The opposition had a number of 4th class players which is our excuse for not winning any matches. This aside, all the players from St. Patrick's gave their best and showed exceptional sportsmanship. It was very encouraging to see and hear all the parents support this occasion.

As their coach it has been great fun to be involved with this group. They show great promise for the future. Looking forward to seeing them in Bray on Fridays from 2.30 to 3.30 next term. The tennis court has become too small and they're all ready for some extra space.

FOOTBALL



This year football took place on the school grounds straight after school for 4th to 6th class. We entered a team into a primary school league and cup where they won a number of their matches. A big thank you to the coaches Jonathon Ellis and Ian and Dean from BIFE Bray who were so encouraging to the kids for all the matches.



GOLF



All children from 5th and 6th Classes were encouraged to take part in golf sessions kindly organised by a large group of volunteers parents and grandparents.



The aim was to pick a girls and boys team from 5th and 6th Class to represent St Patrick's in the Delgany Cup golf competition which is being held on the 16th of May in Delgany Golf Club.

Good luck to all those who will represent our school.



ATHLETICS



This year saw athletics return to the school grounds. We now have one of the few Level 3 athletics coaches in Ireland, Eamonn Tilley, running the sessions. These run on Mondays from 2.05 – 3pm and are open to all pupils from 1st to 6th class. The sessions cover many sporting aspects including base fitness, running styles, athletics disciplines and teamwork but most of all focus on having fun in sport. There has been a big take up in the sessions with great feedback from the kids and very positive development in all. The School entered both the Wicklow Schools Cross Country Individual and Relay competitions. This was against 14 other schools and we finished in the top half of the field in all classes. We will also be entering 2 more Track and Field events competing against all the Wicklow Schools. For more information contact our coordinator Liam Sweeney at 0851280859 or by e-mail to liamchrissweeney@eircom.net.



TENNIS



We have selected a squad of 12 and entered the Leinster Primary Schools League (mixed). We played our first matches in Naas with a team of:

- * Jenny Scott and Stephen Anderson
- * Laoise Horgan and Harry Sutton
- * Grace Evans and Simon Phillips.



After some very exciting matches we won against Taney, Two Mile House and St Furseys which secures our place in the semi-finals of the League. Well done to all the players.

Additional squad members are:

Alistair Bell, Aaron O'Brien, Louis Lambert, Amy Higgins, Isobel Van Maanen, & Sophie Van Maanen.

Coaching starts on Wednesdays after Easter for anyone else interested in learning to play tennis.



Kathy Scott

NEWS FOR SUMMER TERM...

SPORT	CLASSES	VENUE	DAY	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Hockey	3rd - 6th	Loreto, Bray	Fri	Marina Horgan	0879083223
Hockey (introduction)	2nd	St Patrick's NS	Mon & Thurs	Debbie Jones	0860761631
Athletics	1st - 6th	St Patrick's NS	Mon	Liam Sweeney	0851280859
Tag rugby	4th - 6th	St Patrick's NS	Tues	Renee Sutton	0872470035
Tennis	4th - 6th	Greystones Tennis Club	Wed	Susan Hayes	0872847545
Football	1st - 3rd	St Patrick's NS	Wed	Sinead Halligan	0851103457

TAG RUGBY



Tag Rugby is being introduced for the first time at St. Patrick's and we hope that it will be well supported. Tag Rugby is fantastic exercise for both boys and girls and most importantly lots of FUN!

Tag Rugby is great for developing co-ordination as players need to run, dodge defenders, pass the ball and ultimately work as a team to win. Players try to prevent scoring by pulling a velcro-attached tag from the ball carrier. It is a non-contact game and tackling is strictly not allowed.



A BIG 'THANK YOU'

THANK YOU!

To all the members of the sports committee who give their time so generously, and also all the parents and grandparents who volunteer to help with sport.



Without these people we would not be able to offer so many opportunities to participate in sport.

PTA

A few reminders ...



School timetable/ holidays...

08.25 school opens

*pupils should not arrive before this time

08.45 classes begin

*parents are asked to leave by 08.40

10.20 – 10.30 short break

12.00 – 12.30 lunch break

12.00 - 12.20 children play (outside, weather permitting)

12.20 - 12.30 children eat their lunch (in the classroom)

13.05 Junior & Senior Infants pupils go home



14.05 First - Sixth Class pupils go home

Every family should have a copy of the school

calendar for this year. Please try to arrange family holidays so that your child does not miss school.

Emergencies ...?

Please check:

- Do we have up-to-date information for your child (including updated medical/other matters) that might be helpful to us in our care for him/her?
- Have you informed us of any change of address?
- Do you have new or additional contact numbers?
- Do use e-mail? If so, would you like the school to have your e-mail address?

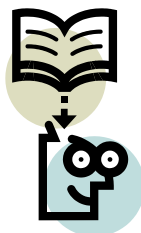


If you are unsure about these points, please check with Pauline at the school office.

Write-a-book



For over 25 years, the *Write a Book Project* has been organised by the Blackrock Education Centre. Every year, thousands of children spend months of hard work and great creativity working to produce an amazing collection of children's writing.



This year several pupils from Second, Third, Fourth and Sixth Classes participated in the project. They planned, wrote, edited and illustrated their books early in Term 2, and then submitted them to join thousands other books written as part of this wonderful annual project.

Four pupils were selected to go to Fitzpatrick's Castle Hotel in Killiney to attend the Special Merit Awards ceremony on Monday 4th April, where each child was presented with a medal and a certificate. They were:

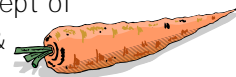
- * *Emily and Rachel's Christmas Adventure* by Juliette Fox (II Class)
- * *The Egyptian Pharaoh* by Molly Gordon Boles (III Class)
- * *All about South Africa* by Stephen Anderson (IV Class)
- * *A Christmas Wish* by Seána Glover (VI Class)

Well done to all the young authors! While many parents had a chance to see the books in some classrooms before they were whisked away to Blackrock, we look forward to putting them on show again on their return!

Food Dudes



We are delighted that St Patrick's was chosen to participate in the Food Dudes Healthy Eating programme this year. The national roll-out of Food Dudes is funded by the Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food & managed by An Bord Bia.



We have completed Phase 1 (16 days) where the pupils were given a different fruit and vegetable every day, while they were read a letter and/or watched an episode about the super-heroes who are saving the life force from a gang of baddies. For their successful eating the children were rewarded with small prizes. If they missed out on a prize, they get a chance to win it back in Phase 2 (next term).

During the second phase, the children will be encouraged to bring in their own fruit and veg to school every day.



So far, the feedback from teachers and parents has been positive. We hope the experience is being a positive one for everyone.



Finally, thanks to those parents who have been helping out with the distribution, in the mornings.

DATE FOR YOUR HOLIDAY DIARY: 22 April is EARTH DAY

What is Earth Day?



Earth Day was established on 22 April 1970, and it has been an important date in the calendar since then. It is a special day on which we can reflect on our planet, and our own environment. We can take a little time to think how we can make them better...

Since that date over 40 years ago, children have had a special role in making this a special day - for lots of good reasons, such as



- * you are full of energy;
- * you are very good at remembering things;
- * you are great writers, poets, artists, musicians, performers and sports people;
- * you are really good messengers - and *Earth Day* sends a very important message;
- * you practice what you say - think of your work to earn our school its Green Flag...
- * you all love a good party, and there is lots to celebrate all around us!

What happened since the first Earth Day?

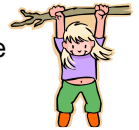


Lots of important decisions about the environment were made since that date. Many laws were enacted all over the world to ensure that people are more careful to keep the air clean, clean up rivers and seas, reduce pollution all around us, and work to save the world's endangered animals. This work will go on for many years to come - and maybe the job will never be complete.

How can you celebrate Earth Day?

Here are a few suggestions...

- * enjoy a walk in the countryside or by the sea
- * play in the fresh air with your friends
- * tell your family and friends about *Earth Day*
- * practice a few of the many lessons you have learned about ways to make our environment better...



Our own GREEN news update - TRAVEL



Here is an update from the Green School's committee. As you may already know, we have been running the Green School's programme for the past 8 years and last year we achieved our third green flag for our work on WATER.

This year, we have started working towards our fourth flag which is based on TRAVEL and the effects it has on the environment.



Since the New Year, we have completed a *Travel survey* amongst the school community and a *Traffic survey* outside the school gates. We hope to publish the results of these two surveys before our Easter holidays.



After Easter, we plan to launch WOW or COW days. These stand for Walk on Wednesdays or Cycle on Wednesdays. Our committee needs parent volunteers, especially because Travel to school usually involves you. If you are interested or you think you may have some time to help us, we would be happy to hear from you.

GARDEN UPDATE!



Now that Spring has finally arrived, the teachers and pupils will be anxious to get out into the garden. If you have green fingers or even if you just like getting muddy, you would be more than welcome to join us. Please let your class teacher know if you are interested. Thank you.



PTA NEWS

March/April

A number of wonderful events were held over recent weeks.

* eSafety - a worthwhile and practical evening for parents, with lots of information on internet safety for children

* **St Patrick's Community Fair** - following participation in the parade (with our own St Patrick!), a great day of stalls selling a range of local crafts and cooking, as well as those offering hot food (with delicious teas/coffees & scones, BBQ delights, and yummy crepes).

* Selecting a secondary school - a terrific open evening providing a opportunity for parents to meet representatives from several post-primary schools in the local and wider area.

PTA committee 2010—2011

Your PTA committee members for this year are:

Tracey Beausang (parent)

Terry Brock (parent)

Eoin Condon (parent)

Bláithín Fitzmaurice (teacher)

Mo Gahan (parent, hon. secretary)

Mandy Hall (parent)

Eileen Jackson (Principal)

Dara MacMahon (parent, 300 CLUB co-ordinator)

Revd David Mungavin (chairperson)

Alan O'Connor (parent)

Eoin O'Mahony (parent)

Peter Purcell (parent, hon - treasurer)

April/May/June

A packed diary to keep us happily busy and entertained...

* 15/04/11 20.30 Pub Quiz, The Beach House

* 20/05/11 18.00 Golf Mini Classic, Greystones Golf Club

* 17/06/11

SCHOOL FUN DAY!

* 25 - 27/08/11 BAG PACK, Tesco

PLAYGROUND DUTY ROTA

Over previous years, parents contributed to keeping the school healthy and safe for our children by helping with playground rota. They supported teachers who were on duty on an on-going rota basis. This practice was discontinued when our staff number were supplemented by the excellent support of SNAs.

However, over recent years such support has been reduced from 6 in 2007/08 to 1 in 2011/2012. As a result, we may have to consider returning to the previous model. If you have any ideas or suggestions on this matter, please e-mail the Principal at sntptk.ias@eircom.net, as it will be on the agenda for consideration next term.