

St. Molua's N.S.

Easter Newsletter

Parents Association:

The Parents Association organised the very successful 'Silver Circle Draw' in the school in recent weeks. Just over €1400 was raised during the fundraiser. We would like to thank everyone who supported the draw in any way over the last few weeks. We would especially like to thank the members of the Parents Association who helped organise the draw. Congratulations to all our winners in the draw.

Bus Stop

As you know, we have moved the bus stop to directly outside the school gate for the safety of children. The stop has been marked out by Limerick County Council. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience while we had a temporary system in place and for your continued support in keeping the space free.

Discover Primary Science:

As mentioned all the children are working hard on their S.T.E.M. skills at present as we prepare to submit our application for a fourth Discover Primary Science Award in a row. The pupils have been partaking in many wonderful Science experiments as well as working on their Technology, Engineering and Maths skills. Niall McCarthy a software engineer with Manutec Ltd,

Ballingarry visited 5th & 6th class on Friday 5th of April. He spoke about how he became an engineer, what his job entails, working on buildings such as Terminal 2 Dublin Airport, Croke Park and Adare Manor and he also brought in equipment that he would use. We hope to submit our final application in late April. We would like to thank Mrs. O' Callaghan for spearheading this initiative.

Internet Safety Awareness

A company called Zeeko was been engaged to speak to the children from 3rd to 6th class in relation to Internet Safety. There was also a parent information seminar that evening for the parents of all children in the school. Many thanks to all of you who made a huge effort to attend. A special thank you to the Parent's Association who contributed €200 to help defray the total cost of €575.

Introduction of new Child Protection Inspections

The Department of Education has introduced a new Child Protection Inspection model for all primary schools which was rolled out in March. Any school can be inspected and checks will be carried out in 10 different categories, with many sub-headings in each category. The inspection takes place over two days and will involve school management, staff, children and parents. Reports are published in relation to school compliance.

World Book Day

World Book Day took place on March 7th. Children were encouraged to dress as their favourite character in a book or film. It was a brilliant success and we had a full page spread in the Observer.

Congratulation:

Well done to Derry O' Connor who was selected for the West Limerick Mackey hurling panel and to Méabh Kelly who was selected for the Eithne Neville camogie panel.

Well done also to Chloe Cahill and Aoife Joyce, members of Rising Stars Dance Group who recently took first place in the Hip Hop Masters Competition.

Green Flag

Our Green Flag assessment took place in January and we have been recommended for our first Green Flag. We are hoping to have the flag raising ceremony in May of this year. Many thanks to Brendan Hayes, who worked hard to achieve this for the school. Thanks also to the pupils, especially the green school's committee, who made this happen.

Skipping Workshop

The children participated in a skipping workshop on Friday, January 18th. All classes were taken in turns to be taught skipping in a fun and practical way. This workshop was run by a very experienced instructor who gave the children a real passion for skipping. We recently bought a set of new skipping ropes to promote this amazing sport and hope to be in top form for next year's workshop.

F.A.I. Soccer Blitz:

The boys and girls in 5th and 6th class had a great day out in Sean Choill all weather facility recently taking part in the F.A.I. 5 a-side soccer blitz. Well done to the boys who performed very well and best of luck to the girls who have qualified for the Final on May 2nd.

Astro Turf Pitch

The school now has the use of the Astro Turf pitch and would like to thanks all those involved for such a wonderful facility. We recently completed training on the new pitch with the GAA coach and are making use of the facility for P.E. and sporting activities.

Grandparents Day:

First and second class held the annual Grandparents Day on the 30th of January. The class welcomed a large number of grandparents on the day. The children recited some poetry, sang and played tunes on the tin whistle for the audience. There was a very entertaining questions and answers session where the pupils quizzed their grandparents about their own childhood and how life has changed since then. The special guest on the day was John Joe Kenneally, who displayed some his finely crafted woodwork and spoke to the children about it. Finally the children from first and second presented their grandparents with art work they had prepared for them prior to their visit. The day finished with refreshments and photographs for the Observer.

Book Fair:

A very successful Book Fair was held in the school during the month of March. Thanks to all who supported this event. A big thank you to Mrs. Ruddle for co-ordinating the Book Fair. It

allows the school to purchase many new books for our class libraries which will benefit all the children in the school.

Biodiversity

Geoff Hunt, Biodiversity Specialist, visited all classes on March 15th. He taught the children about the eco system and the environment in general, which they really enjoyed. He has suggested the planting of some native trees and wild flowers to promote wildlife and improve the environment around the school.

GAA Coach

The GAA Coach, David O'Dea attended for three sessions to teach football and hurling, which took place in the Astro Turf. Thanks to David Woulfe for liaising with him and for opening the field for us on those days. The children thoroughly enjoyed it.

School Policies:

The school has recently updated its P.E. and Visual Arts policies. It is also in the process of reviewing its SPHE and RSE policies. These policies will be available on the website shortly.

Head Lice:

Like many schools, there has been an outbreak of head lice in recent weeks in the school. Head lice can affect all children but children between 4-8 years are mainly affected. We would like to encourage parents to check their child's hair every Friday night using a fine tooth comb. If all parents of these children do this it will help greatly to reduce any outbreaks. You should only treat your child's hair if you find moving lice during this check. We'd like to thank parents for co-operating with this measure.

Infant Morning:

The school held a coffee morning on February 15th to welcome children who will be starting school in September. Thanks to Martina McGrath for bringing the children to the school on the morning. The 6th class children gave a presentation promoting our school and were excellent on the day. Parents were given a tour of the school and a cup of tea afterwards with treats for the children. Thanks to Mrs O' Callaghan and Philomena, our secretary for their help in preparing for the day.

Used Clothes collection:

The Parents Association are planning on having a used clothes collection. This is a fantastic fundraiser for the school. All bags can be handed into the shelter on the school grounds. The collection date is Tuesday the 2nd of May.

Enrolment:

There is still time to enrol children for junior infants 2019/2020. Please contact the office for an enrolment form. If you wish to visit the school, please make an appointment through the school office.

New 5th and 6th Class Teacher

Brendan Hayes resigned on February 1^S to take up his new position in Askeaton. We are very happy to welcome Donagh McCarthy and would like to take this opportunity to wish him the very best in his role.

Upcoming Dates:

First communion will take place on Saturday 11th of May at 11 a.m. in St. Molua's Church Ardagh.

Confirmation will take place on Tuesday, 21st of May at 11 a.m. in St. Molua's Church Ardagh.

Children are asked to wear their school uniform on the day.

Junior Infant Induction will take place on Friday, June 7th.

The Graduation Mass for 6th Class will take place on Thursday, June 13th, time to be confirmed.

School Tours will be on Friday June 14th, details to follow at a later date.

Easter Holidays:

School closes Friday 12th of April @ 12.00 p.m.

School re-opens Monday 29th of April @ 9.00 a.m.

Happy Easter from St. Molua's and we look forward to seeing everybody back on the 29th of April for the third term.

Finally, please see attached a flyer which we were asked to distribute to the school community.